

Dear Chair Holvey,

March 1, 2019

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the committee,

I am writing today to express my concerns about the impacts of HB 2498. This proposed bill threatens work opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs across the state.

As an ambassador of the Redmond Chamber of Commerce I am committed growing business opportunities and providing living-wage jobs for families in our community. We support entrepreneurs and the jobs they create. Individuals often choose the 'independent contractor' model because they prefer the greater earning potential and flexibility of being their own boss. Contractors often choose this way as they prefer to work two or three days of the week. I have friends and associates who confirm this. HB 2498 discourages entrepreneurship by limiting the earning potential for many Oregonians who are self-employed, including home-grown businesses and those who are just starting out.

The proposed 'independent contractor test' in HB 2498 also threatens existing contracts and work opportunities for businesses that perform work that is similar to the business entity retaining their services. This would result in higher taxes and business costs, less flexibility for those seeking self-employment, and potentially fewer jobs, since many employers would be unable to afford the cost of hiring new employees.

HB 2498 is unfair and harmful to local business. I feel this is taking us backwards. I hope you will support businesses in this state and oppose HB 2498.

Sincerely,

Martin Stewart

Entrepreneur, Chamber ambassador.

Sincerely,

Martin Stewart

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