

Oregon House of Representatives  
House Committee on Business and Labor

Hearing on HB 2998

March 13, 2019

Honorable Chair Barker, Vice Chair Barreto, Vice Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2998 on behalf of **Jose Juan Vargas Hernandez, Sage Vineyard Services LLC**

House Bill 2988 removes the English language only requirement for documents related to business organizations that are submitting for filing to the Secretary of State. This requirement has created barriers and diminished opportunities for entrepreneurs with Limited-English-Proficiency.

**When one can't find a dedicated person or resource to help with starting a small business, the process is much more difficult. In my case, it took me over 3 years to be able to officially register my business. It took me over 3 years because originally, I wanted to obtain my license for Construction Contracting, however since I could not find someone to advise or be of resource, I was not able to obtain the license. After that the opportunity of vineyards industry opened, and I decided to begin my entrepreneurship as a Vineyards grower.**

**Luckily, I met another business owner in the vineyard industry and he was the one who helped me fill out all the paperwork to register with the Secretary of State and obtain my Employer Identification Number with the IRS. I need to mention that it was through events geared towards Latino-owned businesses such as the one's in MERIT's office where I found help, and how I found this other business owner. I also need to mention that a real important person, from a local Vineyard Company where I work who has become my mentor and friend and has supported me in all areas such as contracts, leases, and sales. Thanks to these folks who helped me, today I am more independent in managing my company.**