

Date: 03/08/19

To: Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, Members of the Senate Committee on Workforce

From: Rhonda Ealy, Strictly Organic Coffee Co., Bend

RE: Strictly Organic Coffee Co. Support for SB 726, The Oregon Workplace Fairness Act

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp and members of the Senate Workforce Committee:

We roast, serve and deliver Certified Organic and Fair Trade coffees to folks who care about the world's environment, its people, and the coffee they enjoy. We employ 42 workers and we founded our company in Bend in 1999.

Strictly Organic Coffee Co. supports SB 726 which would better protect workers who have faced discrimination in the workplace. We know that current laws don't go far enough to protect harassment victims at work and we support SB 726 because we believe now is the time to take a stand with victims of harassment and discrimination in the workplace. We are thankful to be a business in Oregon where our lawmakers are taking on the hard issues.

Our first priority is to stand with victims, but we also see benefits for small business in the increased exactitude of the language in the BOLI updates around this issue. We think that it is in the best interest of our business and our workers to have an assuredness about the protections provided to both of us.

Our state has a real opportunity with SB 726 to help change the way sexual harassment and other discrimination is handled in the workplace and we want to be a part of the solution. Please stand with us and other businesses around the state by supporting The Oregon Workplace Fairness Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration and thank you Vice-Chair Knopp, for your recent joint committee appearance in Bend for the Clean Energy Jobs Bill (HB 2020),

Rhonda Ealy  
Sec/Treasurer  
Strictly Organic Coffee Co.

Richard Steffensen  
President  
Strictly Organic Coffee Co.