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TO: Co-Chair Beyer
Co-Chair McKeown
Co-Vice Chair Boquist
Co-Vice Chair Noble
Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation

FR: Alma Raya, Legislative Specialist, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Support for HB 2015, Equal Access to Roads Act

April 16th, 2019

The Oregon AFL-CIO represent 300,000 working people in a variety of industries across the state and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. The ability to drive legally is essential to many hard-working families, especially for our members in construction, manufacturing and farm industries, where their job sites and work schedules are constantly changing. Passing the Equal Access to Roads Act would address some of the barriers workers in historically underrepresented communities have struggled with when trying to lift themselves out of poverty. A driver's license is an essential component of economic security, please vote yes on House Bill 2015.

Having a driver licenses is a very common requirement for all sort of jobs, workers are often required to travel to different worksites, move cars at auto detailers or trucks at construction sites. Additionally, many Oregonians need reliable transportation to take their kids to school, doctor's appointments and contribute to their communities. Without the ability to apply for a license to drive, families are forced to make an impossible choice between risking arrest or choosing not to drive and being unable to provide for their families.

In the labor movement we believe that everyone should have the ability to contribute to an economy that works for everyday people. HB 2015 brings us one step closer to ensuring that all workers have the ability to drive to work, take their kids to school, and provide countless contributions to their community. We respectfully urge a yes vote on HB 2015.