

Chairman Holvey, Vice-Chair Bonham & Members of the Committee:

My name is Andy Linerud and I am a Franchisee with Express Employment Professionals which is a staffing firm with more than 825 locations worldwide and 20+ locations in Oregon. I co-own and operate offices in Jackson and Josephine County and currently employ 7 Southern Oregon based recruiters who place more than 1500 Oregonians each year with our local client companies.

In 2007 I was hired by the Medford and Grants Pass Franchisee and within a few years was offered the opportunity to partner and ultimately purchase the franchise. During my tenure with Express and before I signed my franchise agreement, I explored numerous other career options and I ultimately decided to stay with Express because of their brand reputation and motto of 'Franchisees First'. I did my homework and knew exactly what I signed up for. Although there are times I don't always agree with decisions made at our HQ and more often than not wish I didn't have pay a franchisee fee, I am always grateful for the opportunity my franchisor has given me and I have never once questioned my decision to enter into a franchise agreement.

The last thing that would benefit me and the countless other franchisees against this bill would be for the State of Oregon to act as a 3rd party in my relationship with my franchisor. This bill will negatively impact brands across all industries by allowing underperforming owners to continue operating at substandard levels while diminishing the brand and most importantly the equity we work to build. Owning a small business is hard work and there is absolutely no reason vacant owners who neglect their businesses should not be held accountable and the face consequences they signed up for in the first place.

I urge you to consider the impact this bill could have on the locally owned and operated businesses that play by the rules and serve Oregon residents and communities who count on our services. Oregon is a wonderful place to live and work and I personally think our time would be better spent creating jobs and furthering our economic development not creating more regulation that will only slow us down.

Please consider the importance of franchised small businesses, strengthening new businesses and creating jobs within Oregon and vote NO on HB 2946.

Thank you,

Andy Linerud