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Testimony to House Business and Labor Committee / March 17, 2021

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Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

I am testifying today on behalf of the following clients:

Northwest Auto Trades Association
Oregon Power Sports Association
Oregon Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association
Oregon RV Dealers Association
Oregon Vehicle Dealers Association
Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon



These associations are part of a larger coalition of employer representatives which have also submitted written testimony on HB2813, focusing on matching Oregon's wildfire smoke standards to those in California. These associations support their efforts, and any other efforts, to create standards which take into account concerns expressed by employers.

As part of ongoing discussions, I requested an amendment to HB2813 which will make three changes:

First, the amendment will clarify that being inside a motor vehicle does not constitute "outdoor work activities" (which is not defined in the bill, and which I could not find defined anywhere else in statute). This is also part of the larger coalition's request.

Second, the amendment will limit the requirements to only employers who have employees who work outside more than 25 percent of the time (2 hours) on a typical workday.

And third, the amendment will limit the requirements to only those employees who typically work outside more than two hours in an average workday.



These associations believe a bright line should be created on how much outdoor work is enough to trigger the requirements of the underlying bill. Certainly, taking the trash out to the dumpster at the end of an eight-hour indoor shift should not be sufficient to require the mandates in HB2813, but as written, it does.

My client's employees are outside for small parts of a day. Plumbers will walk from their vehicle to a building and back three to five times in a day. This is less than an hour. Auto repair techs walk to the parking lot to drive a vehicle into their enclosed workspace, maybe once or twice a day. These clearly De minimis periods outdoors should not subject employers, or their employees, to these standards.

I am happy to answer your questions and participate in any workgroups established to make reasonable changes to the base bill. Thank you.