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# A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

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TO: Chair Riley  
Vice-Chair Hansell  
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business

FR: Catie Theisen, OR AFL-CIO

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2682A

May 5, 2021

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process.

HB 2682 comes out of a tragedy involving an Oregon AFSCME member working in Benton County who was killed on the job operating an unsafe piece of heavy equipment. Oregon OSHA concluded that the heavy equipment had numerous mechanical issues and was being operated with little to no training.

Although Oregon OSHA has rules that address some of these issues, clearly, the existing rules did not prevent the death of this worker and likely countless other injuries. HB 2682A aims to help address this so other workers aren't subjected to similar dangers on the job. The bill narrowly applies to rentals of less than 1 year and exempts out leases, and only applies to self-propelled driver-operated vehicles over 5,000 GWV. It also puts more stringent requirements on a contracting agency if they are going to rent a vehicle for self-work and puts in place significant sidebars if a piece of equipment does not meet the initial inspection.

It's critical that we do more to proactively address safety and health protections for workers operating heavy machinery, instead of just waiting to enforce violations -- often when it is already too late. HB 2682 is a first step forward to address this problem for countless Oregon workers. We encourage your YES vote on HB 2682A.