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Oregon House Committee On Judiciary
House Subcommittee on Civil Law
HB 2205
Chair Karin Power

February 24, 2021

Chair Power, as well as members of the Committees, my name is Mark Gibson; I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 2205.

I have served in past years as Chairman of the Board for the Oregon Trucking Associations and currently continue to provide services to that organization. Today I testify on behalf of the companies I own and operate. I am currently President and CEO of Siskiyou Transportation, Inc. and Timberland Helicopters, Inc. Both small businesses located in Ashland, Oregon. We have been in business since 1981. We employ an average of 25 full-time employees and depending on the season operate 14-18 trucks. Our companies provide trucking; primarily logging and chips, as well as helicopter services to various governmental agencies, public utilities and private companies throughout the western United States.

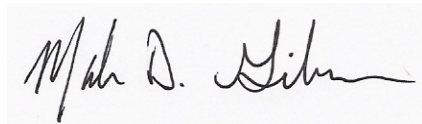
The Private Attorney General Act (PAGA) would be a terrible fate for Oregon businesses and Oregon as a whole. We simply need to look to our neighbors to the south to see the negative effects of such legislation. One of the most concerning things is that the legislation in California was specific to labor law. HB 2205 opens the door for

frivolous class action lawsuits brought forth by virtually unaffected parties. This legislation would open the flood gates for the only segment that would benefit...trial lawyers. Many examples of California class action suites filled under PAGA guidelines result in those that were supposedly harmed in collecting a mere 25% of the award.

HB 2205 basically undermines existing enforcement authority of state agencies by allowing these frivolous suites. Businesses are forced to fight or settle as there is no allowance for arbitration.

Again, I would like to thank you for considering my testimony as submitted for the record and hope that you will stop HB 2205 from moving forward based on the issues I have raised.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark D. Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mark D. Gibson
President