



410 SE Spruce Street  
P.O. Box 1026  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
Phone 541.672.2648  
Fax 541.673.7868

[www.RoseburgAreaChamber.org](http://www.RoseburgAreaChamber.org)

February 24, 2021

**Written Testimony Submitted via OLIS Testimony Portal**

The Honorable Karin Power and Subcommittee Members  
House Subcommittee on Civil Law  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2638

Dear Chair Power and Members of the Subcommittee,

On behalf of Douglas County businesses, the Roseburg Area chamber of Commerce thanks you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 2638.

The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce represents more than 400 businesses (employing more than 15,000 local citizens) that are committed to growing business opportunities and providing family-wage jobs in our community. It is our privilege to represent these entrepreneurs, businesses small and large, and the jobs they provide.

This past year has been a difficult one for the business community. The onset of COVID-19 resulted in wide-spread changes to the way businesses operate. Our businesses have had to adjust in a constantly shifting environment in order to comply with Governor Brown's executive orders, agency mandates and federal guidelines to protect the health of their employees and the public.

We are concerned that even though our local businesses take steps to follow public health guidelines, they are still at risk of a lawsuit from a customer saying that they didn't do enough to protect them from exposure. Just one of these lawsuits would cripple a local business, or worse close it down permanently. It's already tough to keep their doors open in these challenging economic times. Please don't leave them exposed to unnecessary legal risk.

HB 2638 would ensure that businesses acting in good faith would be protected from unwarranted lawsuits. It recognizes the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 emergency and provides timely and targeted protections for businesses at a time when they need it most.

*To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.*

*To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.*



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Temporary COVID-19 liability protections are not a license for a business to intentionally ignore safety precautions, but will ensure that employers who are following best practices and state-issued public health guidelines don't suffer further economic harm in this fragile environment.

Our families and business have been through a lot since the coronavirus took hold. We ask you support HB 2638 and COVID liability protections to shield local businesses from legal risk when they are following state public health guidelines to protect employees and customers.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Debra L. Fromdahl".

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM  
President & CEO

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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