

February 24, 2021

Dear Chair Power and Members of the House Subcommittee on Civil Law,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HB 2638.

2020 and now 2021 been difficult for everyone, but especially businesses. With COVID-19 restrictions, businesses have had to pivot continually to operate. On top of that, many of us have had to endure loss of business due to the fire emergencies of 2020 and the ice storms of 2021.

We are very concerned that even though businesses like ours do our best to follow public health guidelines, we are still at risk of a lawsuit from a client claiming we didn't do enough to protect them from exposure to the COVID-19 infection. It's already a struggle to operate in these challenging economic times, but even more difficult with the threat of a potential lawsuit due to unknowingly and unintentionally spreading an unseen virus.

HB 2638 would ensure that businesses like ours who are acting in good faith would be protected from these types of lawsuits. These liability protections do not give a business the right to intentionally ignore safety precautions, but will ensure that businesses that are following state public health guidelines do not potentially suffer further economic harm and can continue to conduct business and employee labor in Oregon.

Please support HB 2638. Thank you for your consideration,

Shawnda Horn

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