



June 13, 2023

Members of the Legislative Assembly:

We write today to express our opposition to HB 3409 and to request your no vote on the legislation. HB 3409 is an omnibus environmental policy bill that contains the provisions of as many as 14 previously introduced policy bills. Our concerns regarding this bill are multifold.

First, the 122-page amendment incorporating the more than dozen bills into HB 3409 was made available to the Natural Resources Subcommittee with the bare minimum notice required, leaving minimal time for members of the public and impacted stakeholders to review the language and provide meaningful public feedback. While some of the policies contained in the bill received public hearings in other venues earlier this session, many others received only cursory vetting, are highly controversial in nature, and pose significant challenges to employers and consumers alike. We trust that you share our concern that proposed policy changes of this magnitude must receive a thorough review from legislative committees, members of the public, and stakeholders before advancing through the legislative process. Unfortunately, that has not been the case with HB 3409.

Second, as previously mentioned, many of the provisions of HB 3409 are highly controversial in nature and present a myriad of potential consequences for Oregon employers and consumers. Language related to the regulation of residential and commercial building codes, for example, has consistently been opposed by union trade organizations, housing providers, and the building industry. The bill also contains language updating Oregon's greenhouse gas reduction goals, among other related changes, that have significant public policy implications. Other provisions of the bill enjoy some level of industry support, but would be better handled as a stand-alone policy bill. We implore you to reject the omnibus approach being taken in HB 3409 and instead consider the merits of each of these bills as standalone policies. Our organizations stand ready to participate in these conversations through the remainder of this year's regular session, a potential special session, or in the 2024 legislative session. However, we are unified in our opposition to the approach currently being taken in HB 3409.

In summation, while we recognize the 2023 legislative session has been unprecedented and that adjournment grows closer by the day, we urge you to avoid rushing through major policy changes without adequate feedback from the public, industry experts, and impacted stakeholders.

Please vote NO on HB 3409 to address these concerns and allow for each of these policies to receive the scrutiny and stand-alone votes they deserve.

For more information, please contact:
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*From The Desk of:
 Nikki Breese-Iverson
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