



The Honorable Chair Holvey
House Committee on Business and Labor
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97310

February 16, 2023

Thank you, Chair Holvey, members of the committee, for the opportunity to support show Lone Rock Resources' support for HB-2722.

My name is Brennan Garrelts and I live and work in rural Oregon. As a Douglas County resident, I see firsthand the challenges of engaging and employing today's youth who are less than 18-years-old. The prohibition on supervised use of power tools for 16- and 17-year-olds has created many constraints on the opportunities we can provide to our emerging-adults and the employers within our communities who provide the stable, family-wage jobs necessary to maintain vibrant and successful communities.

HB-2722 is a much needed step in the right direction to address the direct correlation between the opportunities that our local emerging-adults have for employment that involves the supervised use of power tools and the availability of a full-time labor force in entry-level, stable, family-wage jobs in rural Oregon. With the mechanization of many blue-collar jobs today, skilled training is needed to 1) prepare 16- and 17-year-olds to join the labor force and 2) educate and expose these emerging-adults to the multitude of career opportunities throughout Oregon, many of which start with on-the-ground labor working with power tools. Specific to southern Oregon, a labor shortage exists necessary to address the much-needed fuels reduction and fire mitigation work associated and funded through the 2022 SB762. This well-paying type of work is ideal for emerging-adults with supervision.

Passing of this bill will provide a much-needed pathway to give emerging-adults many of the necessary skills that employers need while providing the important supervision through vocational- or education-based organizations who can teach the appropriate safety training necessary to operate the tools safely and successfully.

Thank you for your time and please support supporting HB-2722

Thank you,

Brennan Garrelts
Lone Rock Resources
Roseburg, OR