



I'm urging you to support HB 3572.

My name is Tom Hering and I am the co-founder of an Oregon business named Benefit Corporations for Good (BCFG). We provide certification, connection and advocacy building a statewide community of mission-driven small businesses as Oregon Benefit Companies (OBC). We are also just 1 of 4 third-party-standards for the Oregon Benefit Company listed on the Secretary of State's website and the only standard based in Oregon.

Signed into law in January of 2014, "the Oregon Benefit Company is a type of corporation or LLC that considers its impact on society and the environment in the business decision-making process, in addition to earning a profit." (from Oregon SOS website)

Which brings me to House Bill (HB) 3572. It's a bill designed to give Oregon small businesses that are also Oregon Benefit Companies a sustainable advantage when seeking contracts through the Oregon State procurement office. I say "sustainable" because due to their commitment to people and planet, many OBC leaders must make business decisions that in some cases are not the most "cost-efficient" because of the negative impact that less costly decisions would have on the environment and society.

The statute if passed would stipulate that if bids from Oregon Benefit Companies are 5% higher than the lowest offer from non-Oregon Benefit Companies, that small business would get the contract. So for example, a \$100 bid would be treated as if it were \$95.

Similar legislation has been passed in Cook (Illinois) and Los Angeles counties but nothing at the state level. By passing such legislation, Oregon would not only be the first in the nation to do so but would be sending a strong message in support of small businesses that:

- 1) Consider the social and environmental impact of their business decisions,
- 2) Demonstrate their commitment to being a good corporate citizen in Oregon, and
- 3) Serve as an example of how an Oregon small business can be a force for good in its community.

Thank you all for your time and consideration of this impactful piece of legislation for the Oregon small business community.

I steadfastly urge you to support HB 3572.

Tom Hering
Co-founder & Managing Director
Benefit Corporations for Good