

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules,

My name is Aaron Muñoz Gonzalez and I currently work for Latino Network as a youth advocate. I am also a resident of Fairview. I have previously worked as an agricultural warehouse employee, and I also helped construct the roof at the Amazon distribution center in North Portland while working as a roofer. I am writing to show my support for House Bill 3568.

Companies have been allowed for far too long to treat their warehouse workers inhumanely, and the time has come for the state of Oregon to make things right. Many members of my community have worked in warehouses, and some still do today, so we are all too familiar with the conditions faced by warehouse workers. In order to meet the demands of corporate giants, some warehouse workers in Oregon have to perform at such levels that lifelong injuries are common.

I'm not averse to hard work, but the working conditions inside the agricultural warehouse that I worked in were unbearable. When I worked there, I was pushed to my physical limit. The rate I had to work at was so fast that it felt like only a robot could keep up. It was too much for me, and I quit that job after a few weeks. After my experience, I realized that I would rather go back to roofing, where I would have to withstand the scorching heat and freezing cold, than return to the warehouse.

Passing House Bill 3568 will prevent businesses from subjecting workers to secret quotas that push them to work past the point of injury. With this bill, the government will set standards that place workers' safety before businesses' distribution quotas.

I would like to end my testimony by paying respect to Oregon's warehouse workers. Never have I met such hardworking and down-to-earth people as those who give it their all to keep the wheels of society running. If we ignore their working conditions and let businesses wear them down, then one only needs to imagine what will become of the rest of us. That is why I support House Bill 3568 and why I urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

Aaron Muñoz Gonzalez