

Submitter: Ian Johnson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB3568

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. For the record, my name is Ian Johnson. I am a homeowner and small business owner in East Portland. In the years since the pandemic I have struggled financially and I have seen many of my friends and neighbors work harder than ever to make ends meet. In that time many people in my community have found work with Amazon, especially in the Troutdale Fulfillment Center.

At first I thought Amazon jobs were a great benefit. Folks who had gaps in their employment history or needed to make money immediately overcame these barriers to employment and provided for themselves and their families. But in time I saw this work take its toll on everyone I know working for Amazon. First, a friend began wearing a back brace, and explained over cards one night that he did not have time to stretch or lift with proper form - he was always afraid he would fall behind quota and lose his job. He only lasted two more months before the back pain made it impossible to keep working at the warehouse.

Another Amazon worker, a family friend I have known for two decades fractured his arm on shift, but did not stop to seek medical attention fearing for his employment. This man had to leave Amazon because of his injury and spent several months unemployed afterward. Warehouse work is hard, but there are several other warehouses in Oregon that do not have such catastrophic rates of injury. I believe that Amazon clouding their expectations from employees is to blame. Without knowing what standards of expected of them, Amazon workers are encouraged to risk their bodies to stay one step ahead of the imagined chopping block. HB3568 would make these expectations clear allowing workers to make informed choices with their own health and safety. As a small business owner I know I cannot expect consistent good work unless I pay my people fairly, treat them with dignity and respect their right to manage their own personal lives. I implore you to pass HB3568. Thank you for the gift of your time.

Ian Johnson

