



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

TO: Co-Chairs McLain and Gorsek
Members of the Transportation Committee
FR: Catie Theisen, Oregon AFL-CIO
RE: HB 2642 Concerns

February 18, 2025

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify with significant concerns on HB 2642

HB 2642 would require that all seven of Oregon's Clean Air Stations will close, which would have a devastating impact on the workers employed there – roughly 75 people who work on location and some stationed at the technical center which provides facility maintenance, IT and support to those clean air stations. It is also important to identify that both Portland-Metro and Medford where Clean Air Stations have conditions leading to lasting inversion layers, making air quality an issue for those with existing conditions, seniors, and the medically vulnerable.

The bill further specifies that emissions enforcement would be contracted out to the private sector, essentially moving jobs from the public sector – where good wages, benefits and working conditions have been long established – to the private sector, where no such guarantee or regulation exists.

This change is fundamentally contrary to Oregon values, where we value the high-quality public sector jobs that ultimately help create and sustain an economy where workers can make ends meet, afford quality health care for themselves and their family and retire with dignity after a career of public service.

Now, more than ever, it is important to recognise good efficient work, where Oregonians have access to the programs where needed with strategic State investment. Cutting these state positions would all but guarantee costly economic lay-offs, a support of low-road jobs, and a need to rebuild infrastructure at a time when jobs and environmental protections are already significantly under attack.