



Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis & Members of the Committee:

My name is Jonathan Orpin, Founder and CEO at New Energy Works and Pioneer Millworks. I am writing/speaking in support of HB 3646 to allow the state to give contracting preference to employee-owned businesses in certain circumstances.

From our McMinnville OR location, dedicated coworkers craft custom designed timber frames and mass timbers, as well as wood siding and flooring products for architects, builders, designers, homeowners, retailers, restaurants, and more across the nation. As a 100% employee-owned ESOP, our business provides those coworkers with a unique opportunity to build wealth, earning three times the average retirement savings compared to traditional workers, while also promoting higher engagement, productivity, and job stability.

This stability via employee-ownership provides a strong incentive for coworkers to stay long-term, helping create a more secure and committed workforce who tend to live where they work – meaning their dollars stay in the local region, supporting the local economy.

Additionally, as part of an ESOP, folks have a stake in the company; the employee-ownership structure fosters a sense of pride and responsibility – the company's success is reflected in their personal financial success allowing the ideas, effort, and teamwork contributed every day to have a direct impact, resulting in an overall stronger company, supportive of people and community.

By including ESOPs in HB 3646, we can incentivize companies to transition to employee ownership, supporting our local economy and allowing Oregonians greater long-term wealth growth and work opportunities.

Thank you to Chair Tran for bringing this bill forward. I urge you to support HB 3646 and to pass the bill at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

**Jonathan Orpin**  
*Founder & CEO*

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