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March 15, 2013

HB 2398

**Testimony before the House Business and Labor Committee
Kevin Gee, District Manager, Fred Meyer Stores, Oregon**

MEASURE: HB 2398
EXHIBIT: 3
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SUBMITTED BY: Kevin Gee

Good morning Chair Doherty and members of the committee,

I'm Kevin Gee, district manager for 19 Fred Meyer stores in Oregon. My stores are located here in Salem, down the I-5 Corridor to the California border, and along the Oregon Coast from Brookings to Newport.

I'm here today to ask you to consider not passing House Bill 2398.

I can only assume that the impetus behind this bill is to reduce underage drinking. Fred Meyer has 50 stores in Oregon. In 2012, we had approximately 7 million transactions in our Oregon stores that included alcohol. Of those 7 million transactions in 2012, we failed a total of **three** alcohol stings. NONE of those failed stings was at self-checkout.

Self-checkout technology has been around for almost two decades now. There is simple and readily available self-checkout technology that requires a cashier to take action. The program requires a cashier to either enter the date of birth or perform a manual bypass. Fred Meyer has ALWAYS had this in place. If the issue here is preventing our young people from purchasing alcohol, then pass a bill that punishes the retailers who don't care enough to invest in doing the right thing.

Self-checkout is one of those things that some people hate, but lots of other people love. If the store is particularly busy and there are lines at all the checkstands, self-checkout can help a consumer feel like they have a choice as to how to get out of the store. I ask you to please not take that choice away from our customers, and please not punish the majority of retailers who are already doing the right thing at self-checkout.

Thank you for taking the time to hear testimony on this. I'm happy to answer any questions.