



**Date:** April 11, 2013

**To:** Members of the Senate Business & Transportation Committee

**From:** Bill Perry, Vice President of Government Affairs  
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association

**Subject:** SB 833 – Oregon Short Term Drivers’ License Program

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Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association, I would like to start my testimony by framing where we are today.

1. The businesses ORLA represents are following laws both requiring and limiting them as employers. Employees provide the employers the documents that meet all of the requirements needed to fill out the I-9 federal employment forms.
2. Employers in our industry are collecting and paying taxes to both state and local governments for their employees.
3. President Reagan signed Immigration Reform legislation in 1986 that allowed for a steady supply of immigrant workforce to fill the shortfalls in the 1990s and 2000s, but those guidelines were not followed and visas were not issued.
4. As we have seen in several news stories, the federal government informed the states they will not deport workers solely for improper documentation or traffic violations.

There are people on all sides of the immigration debate today that are frustrated about the system and the situation we find ourselves in as Oregonians. However, Oregon is not the only state that is frustrated with the federal government. Many, if not all of the states are frustrated. States cannot issue work visas or send individuals without proper federal documentation back to their country of origin. So what do we do?

In our industry, there is a concentration of restaurants and hotels in small coastal towns with high housing prices. In addition, there are a number of resorts in Central Oregon near Bend, Sisters and Redmond that do not have housing available for the workforce. There are also wineries throughout the Willamette Valley and outside the urban growth boundary that workers must drive to. All of these examples require employees to drive from where they reside to their jobs a distance away.

I have seen this issue turn into an immigration debate. SB 833 does not affect the immigration issue on the federal level. SB 833 does not give anyone legal work status, or provide a path to citizenship. While the immigration debate is an important one, and there are concerns about the federal I-9 process, these solutions must happen at the national level in Congress.

SB 833 simply recognizes that there are members of our local economies and communities that want to do the right thing and drive safely. SB 833 gives them the opportunity to do so.

This bill is a means for Oregon to deal with the problems created by the lack of federal action. Even if immigration reform passes Congress next week, it will still take many years for the federal government to supply proper documentation to Oregon workers. Oregon needs this legislation to begin to address the 20 years of inaction at the federal level.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Perry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bill Perry  
Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association