

Testimony to The Senate Business and Labor Committee

May 16th, 3:00Pm.

Good Afternoon, Chair Beyer, Members of the Committee,

My name is Maui Meyer, I'm a Hood River County Commissioner, going on 9 years now. I'm also a small business owner in Hood River, with a number of businesses across the spectrum, from Real Estate to Restaurants, all of which would be interested in the option to select a B Corp designation.

I'm writing to you today in support of the B Corp Legislation, HB2296-A

Simply put, our competitiveness with other states in attracting business with fewer "tools" in our toolbox puts us behind the national trend. B Corp legislation will keep us in the front line on all the new interest in "Triple Bottom Line" companies. As you know we are seen as a national leader in this area, and B Corp legislation reinforces that commitment.

I spoke with one of the reviewers of the B Corps concept for Oregon, and he puts it this way.

"....In sum for me, if it's voluntary, it doesn't affect companies that don't opt in, other states are offering it, it fits with the corporate philosophy of a number of Oregon companies in a number of industries and might have a positive economic effect on Oregon, why not add it to the menu of Oregon corporate form options?...."

As you may know, one of the more frustrating things about being a Commissioner is to work on a good idea, only to find out that the State has not been able to timely update their rules, and is operating on outdated set of assumptions. Things move fast out here, and while I appreciate the steady hand of Salem, this is not an issue that should be deliberated over sessions. (Actually, Full Sail Brewery is located in Hood River, and they might agree that it SHOULD be deliberated over Sessions, which is one of their beers.)

If we are able to pass the B Corp Legislation, we will remain competitive and current in the eyes of an expanding number of companies that concern themselves with broader metric results, we will attract companies that might not otherwise come here because of our flexibility of corporate forms, and we will give our existing companies more tools in their toolbox.

Thank you for your time.