

The **MAIN STREET**
Alliance of Oregon

a big vision for small business

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
From: Main Street Alliance of Oregon Small Businesses
Date: April 12, 2013
Re: Letter in Support of HB3370

MEASURE: HB 3307
EXHIBIT: 6
H BUSINESS & LABOR
DATE: 4.12.2013 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Jim Houser

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,

The Main Street Alliance of Oregon, a coalition of over 1200 small businesses across Oregon, supports HB3370. A bill that requires that employees be paid for breaks and meals provided by BOLI regulations is common sense.

As a small business owner, we think of and treat our employees like family. When businesses who don't value their employees as we do, don't allow them to take breaks, or follow the regulations set out by BOLI, it speaks poorly for all of Oregon businesses. As employers, we need to treat all of our employees fairly and justly.

Further, small businesses are more likely to follow the rules and therefore will be put at a competitive disadvantage when other businesses don't - cutting their costs - and therefore being able to undercut the businesses, like ours, who do follow the rules. This bill helps protect small businesses that obey the law, and treat our employees right, from predator businesses that don't.

We believe that the Oregon State Legislature can take action to level the playing field for responsible businesses to be able to operate their businesses competitively. We urge you to work with us to strengthen state laws to prevent and punish wage theft.


Main Street Alliance of Oregon believes Oregon cannot allow this, or any type of wage theft to continue. We urge you to support HB 3370.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important issue.

Yours respectfully,



Jim Houser, co-chair
Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland



Mark Kellenbeck, co-chair
BrainJoy LLC, Medford