

CASE AUTOMOTIVE

175 South Front Street
Woodburn, OR 97071
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June 5, 2013

To: House Rules Committee
From: Mike Sumner, Case Automotive, Woodburn
Re: Support For Paid Sick Leave (HB 3390-2)

Chair Garrett and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Mike Sumner. I am the owner of Case Automotive in Woodburn. I commute daily to Woodburn from my home in St. Helens. So I guess you could say I am a constituent of several districts. I am also on the Executive Team of the Main Street Alliance of Oregon.

I am here to speak in support of HB 3390.

I have been an automotive mechanic for 25 years. 7 years ago, in 2006, I bought the property and business of my former employer in Woodburn and became an automotive repair shop owner. My former boss had offered paid time off for many years, so I continued the tradition. And I got to see the value of this benefit from both sides—as employee and employer. And it works well for both.

I give my 5 employees 2 weeks of paid time off a year. They can use it for vacation or sick time or to fill other family needs.

This pays off for me in several of ways. First, I don't get people coming to work sick and getting others infected. And I get lower turnover and a motivated and loyal team of employees. It is very difficult to find qualified automotive mechanics, and when you get a good team, you want to hang onto them.

An example of what a great, loyal team I have at Case Automotive was when they really came through for me last year. On July 15th I was in a major motorcycle accident that laid me up for 5 months. During my convalescence the team pulled together and kept the doors open and got the work done. A retired employee even came back to work as an office manager, and kept the billing and paperwork in order.

And she is an example of how valuable paid time off is. She had used her paid time off a couple of times, once when she came down with a full-fledged case of pneumonia. She, and the rest of my crew, literally demonstrate the truth of the old adage, "You take care of your people, and they will take care of you."

But a major reason that a statewide standard for paid time off is important, besides it being the right thing to do, is that those of us who take the "high road" by giving our employees the sick time benefits they need, shouldn't be put at a competitive disadvantage by businesses that don't.

In conclusion, I, and the Main Street Alliance of Oregon, respectfully encourage your "yes" vote on HB 3390 creating paid sick time in Oregon.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Mike Sumner
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