



February 16, 2015

To: Senate Workforce and House Business and Labor Committees
From: Michael Barthmus, Owner, Doppio Coffee
Re: Support of SB454 and HB2005

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Holvey and Committee Members,

My name is Michael Barthmus and I own and operate Doppio Coffee in Hood River. I am also a member of Main Street Alliance of Oregon Statewide Leadership Circle. I, and Main Street Alliance, HB 2005 and SB 454, a bill to create a statewide earned sick leave standard in Oregon.

I've been running my coffee shop for the past 7 years. Due to the nature and impacts of tourism in Hood River, we have very different work seasons - in the summer months, we employ 15 employees, and during the off-season the number drops to about 10 employees, therefore we at Doppio would be directly affected by HB 2005 and SB 454.

I currently have 1 shop manager on salary, and as of now, they are my only staff that have some kind of PTO as a benefit. I am ready and excited to begin to offer paid sick time to my all of my other employees, but it needs to come with a standard, so as to level the playing field for myself and my competitors.

For Doppio this kind of standard makes sense, and should for the rest of the service industry as well. My employees have constant contact with food, beverage, and customers, so them staying healthy is of the utmost importance. If I have an employee come into work sick, that puts the rest of my staff, and the general public as a whole at risk. Really, it's simple - if you're sick, stay home, get better, and then come back to work.

Not only would this type of standard help to keep the public safe and healthy, I've seen that when my employees are healthy they do a better job, and are friendlier to the customers. In an industry where customer-service is king, we constantly strive to be the best, and my staff getting the opportunity to stay healthy means that we can continue to offer the best customer service.

As a Main Street small business owner, I want to continue to treat my employees with the care and respect they deserve. I want to be able to make sure that when they need it, my employees can take a day or two to get healthy, so they can come back to work at 100%, and give 100% in my coffee lounge. I just want to make sure that we're all held accountable to the same standards. Just like minimum wage, a statewide paid sick leave standard, as proposed by HB 2005 and SB 454, would level the playing field for all businesses in Oregon, and make sure that all Oregonians can access to paid sick leave.

I urge you to support HB 2005 and SB 454.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Regards,
Michael Barthmus
Doppio Coffee