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Dear Chairman Holvey and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

I am opposed to HB 2005.

In Josephine County we are experiencing economic difficulties. Federal litigation has made it difficult to work with our natural resources and the number of good family wage jobs has decreased. The discretionary income of our residents has decreased. However, we have dedicated entrepreneurs who are willing to create interesting shops, especially in downtown Grants Pass. Many of the owners may not make a lot of money, but they work for the love of being in business and serving the public with their products. It used to be these owners could take some time and volunteer to help other projects in the community, but now many must remain in their stores because they have not enough income to hire employees sufficient to cover the owner's absence.

Many shop owners will not be able to afford the extra expense of paid sick time for employees. Some would have no options left except to close the businesses.

Another complication for bookstore owners is that books for sale have the prices printed on them. I was a partner in a Grants Pass bookstore for many years and am well aware that I would not be able to raise book prices above the retail prices to cover the extra expenses I would have had for paid sick time. As it was, we had dedicated employees and we never deducted wages nor required extra hours when an employee couldn't make it to work. But, had we employed non-dedicated employees for some reason, we would not have been able to deal with the extra cost of paid sick time.

I hope you will be able to consider these issues which are common to rural Oregon, and oppose HB 2005.

Thank you.

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