



OREGON TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

**Before the House Judiciary Committee
House Bill 2597**

Testimony of: Bob Russell
Oregon Trucking Associations
February 27, 2017

First, let me say that the number one priority of the Oregon Trucking Associations is safety. This includes not only highway safety but also includes the safety of our employees. We recognize that distracted driving is a huge problem in Oregon and across the country. Our companies are working with their driver's every day to reduce the incidence of distracted driving within the trucking industry.

While we support the intent of HB 2597, we have a few concerns. First, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration is requiring most trucks to be equipped with electronic logging devices effective December 1, 2017. Most of these devices are multifunction and include driver's hours of service, navigation, communication etc. I have attached some examples of the most popular models so that you can see what I am talking about. We have no alternative. We must have one of these devices installed in almost all of our trucks by December of this year.

My concern is that the definition of mobile electronic device says, "...includes but is not limited to a device capable of text messaging, voice communication, entertainment, navigation, accessing the Internet or producing electronic mail." All of the devices attached as examples of electronic logging devices provide some or all of these functions. We then look at the prohibition found on line 22 of the bill and says, "Uses a mobile electronic device for any purpose." I believe that the use of any of the devices attached would violate the terms of HB 2597.

Our second concern is the use of CB or other radio systems. Some of our companies still use radio systems to communicate with their drivers. This requires the driver to "key the mic". Similarly, and probably more common

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is the use of CB radios. It is not necessary for the driver to take his or her eyes off the road, in this situation, but it does require them to take one hand off of the steering wheel. I believe this would also be a prohibited activity under HB 2597.

Finally, we believe that modern navigation systems actually improve safety. I remember the old days of driving down the street either looking at a map or a list of directions from MapQuest. Since electronic navigation devices are essentially operated hands free when the vehicle is in motion, we think these devices are far less distracting than a map. However, our reading of the HB 2597 indicates that if the navigation system is permanently installed in the vehicle, then it is ok. If it is not permanently installed, then it is prohibited.

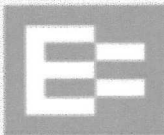
As I began my testimony, the Oregon Trucking Associations supports the intent of HB 2597. However, we believe that, for the reasons enumerated above, it needs some work. We would be more than willing to participate in a work group or some similar activity to see if we can make the bill work better for everyone. Thank you.



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