

From: "Brent H. Hutchings" <[redacted]>
Subject: North River Boats - HB (2902)
Date: February 22, 2017 at 9:57:33 AM PST
To: Sen.JeffKruse@state.or.us, rep.dallasheard@state.or.us

Gentlemen,

I am the CEO and owner of North River Boats. While we have not met, I have heard good things about how you represent Douglas County and the community of Roseburg. As you likely know, North River has experienced a significant resurgence in the last 4 years. We have tripled revenue, saved 65 good jobs and created 65 new living wage jobs with full benefits in Douglas County. Many fine people suffered when North River was hit by the double whammy of the economic downturn and the former owner's misdeeds, but all of that has thankfully faded in the rear view mirror. I intend to own and grow this business forever, and it is in that spirit that I ask you to consider the following.

Jonathan Wright of the City of Reedsport recently made me aware of HB (2902) and the potential dire implications for the Douglas County marine industry. Along with Fred Wahl Marine, Giddings Boat Works, Tar Heel Aluminum and Reedsport Machine, North River stands to be negatively impacted if municipalities are allowed to directly compete with private employers. The addition of bullet point (8) would enable ports to **operate shipyards and build watercraft, directly competing with private employers**. If enacted, this will allow ports to construct any maintain any type of watercraft which has the potential to be damaging for all ship builders and ship yards in Oregon. Ports are tax exempt, subsidized by tax proceeds and able to apply for many more grant opportunities than private business. Therefore, this bill would give them unfair economic advantages over private companies that have worked hard to save and create good jobs in your districts.

I respectfully ask for your support to defeat this ill-conceived measure.

I would also like the opportunity to meet each of you at a mutually convenient time to get to know each other and to explore areas of mutual interest. I am generally free for lunch Mondays and Tuesdays in Roseburg. If you are interested, I would be happy to give you a tour of the reinvented North River Boats. It is pretty interesting as factory tours go, and would take about an hour.

Thank you for your dedication to serving Douglas County and Oregon. I appreciate your time.

Best regards,

Brent H. Hutchings
CEO
North River Boats