

April 3, 2017

Senate Committee on Workforce
 Senator Kathleen Taylor, Chair
 Oregon State Legislature
 900 Court Street NE
 Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 828 – Predictive Scheduling

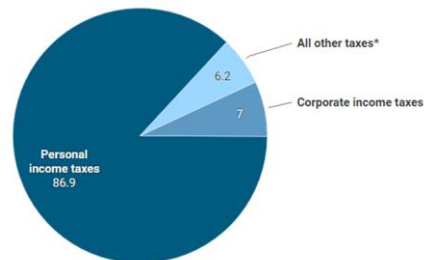
Chair Taylor and Committee Members:

The purpose of my letter today is to express our strong opposition to SB 828, otherwise known as the “predictive scheduling” bill. EDCO has been tracking the formation of this legislation for more than a year as it is a serious concern for yet another government mandate on Oregon employers. As a regional economic development organization focused on traded sector companies, this legislation will not impact the majority of our client companies in manufacturing, high technology and professional services. It will however, seriously encroach on the operations of many non-traded sector employers including retail, food and beverage and tourism-related businesses. These employers often have huge swings in demand for their products and services during the course of a day or work week that are nearly impossible to forecast and which make this bill impractical and exceedingly costly over time.

Before passing yet another mandate on employers, I would encourage you, as leaders of our representative democracy, to actually talk with Oregon employers about recent government mandates. EDCO meets individually with 300-400 businesses in the Central Oregon region every year, and we are hearing a common theme: government mandates are making our state harder to conduct efficient business operations. They are clearly fatigued by laws and rules being made in Salem.

Make no mistake, employers fatigued by a sustained state effort to obligate them pay certain wages, offer specific benefits, or govern operations is not good for Oregon’s public sector. More than any other state, Oregon is dependent on personal income taxes for its state budget (*see chart at right*). By the very nature of the ever-changing marketplace in which they must compete, business owners are creative problem-solvers. Create an environment where employers are incentivized to automate operations, consolidate their workforce or even relocate outside the state will hurt Oregon’s already stressed budget.

The state’s 2015-17 general fund revenue forecast by source, as a percent



*Includes cigarette tax, estate tax, liquor apportionment transfer

We should know, EDCO recruits companies from states like California who are fed up government mandates, and ever-far reaching controls into all aspects of their operations. Predictive scheduling mandates and costs associated with SB 828 are unnecessary and punitive on businesses, which are the foundation for Oregon’s economy. Please let this bill languish in committee and never see the light of a floor vote!

Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me via phone or email: rog-er@edcoinfo.com. Thank you for the opportunity to provide an “in the trenches” perspective on this bill.

Sincerely,



Roger J. Lee,
 Executive Director