



April 27, 2017

Chair Jeff Barker  
House Committee on Judiciary  
900 Court St. - State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Barker, members of the committee:

My name is Mike Scott. I have been with the Oregon Department of Transportation for nearly 20 years. I am the President of SEIU ODOT Local 730. I am here today to testify in support of SB 34.

The reality is that workers are at risk of serious injury when they are working in the vicinity of passing motorists. The work we do every day on Oregon's road ways is dangerous work. SB 34 is one small way we can help improve safety for workers and motorists.

This past winter, we saw 5 ODOT plow operators damaged from distracted drivers statewide. In region 1, we had several distracted drivers' strike our vehicles. This happened both at night and during the day, and it happened to all variety of workers – maintenance and incident response.

Just a month ago, a co-worker working Incident Response had his truck hit in a hit-and-run accident. He was left unharmed but his truck was damaged. A few weeks ago, another co-worker was hit for the second time in a year while in the line of work and he had to spend a day in the hospital. Luckily, he is going to be ok.

Similarly, over the years we have seen motorist become less cautious and show less respect to the folks trying to do their job on the roadways. Again, we believe SB 34 is a small step towards keep workers and motorists safe.

In addition to this legislation, it would be great if we could also see a public campaign educating motorists using billboards, reader boards and social media across the state. We also need to see heightened enforcement to help make sure motorists are following the law. We appreciate the department for bringing this legislation forward and we are eager to continue the conversation about how we can keep motorists and workers safer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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