



**OREGON TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS, INC.**

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

Testimony of: Bob Russell  
Oregon Trucking Associations  
May 24, 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.

I testified before you on a bill similar to HB 2597, which was SB 2. While we supported the intent of SB 2, we had 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.

Our concern was 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 which says, "Uses a mobile electronic device for any purpose." I believe that the use of any of the devices would violate the terms of SB 2 and the original version of HB 2597. However, this issue is fully addressed in the amended version of HB 2597, which provides an exemption for the use of electronic logging devices.

OREGON TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS

4005 S.E. NAEF ROAD, PORTLAND, OREGON 97267-5617

503/513-0005 PHONE ■ 888/293-0005 TOLL FREE ■ 503/513-0008 FAX ■ WWW.ORTRUCKING.ORG

Our second concern continues to be 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 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 continue to be a prohibited activity under the amended version of 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 amended version of 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.

The Oregon Trucking Associations supports the amended version of HB 2597 as the bill now addresses our primary concern. However, we also support the A13 amendments as they address our other concerns. We would like to thank Representative Olson for his continued work on this bill. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify this morning.





# THE EROAD ELD SOLUTION

Built from the ground up with you in mind

September 2016



- Electronic Logs • Accurate fleet tracking • IFTA • Weight Mileage Tax • Analytics

