

May 30, 2017

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

RE: HB2597A - Supporting -13 Amendment: change from “Operating” to “Driving”

This letter is in support of amendments to HB 2597 that will change language from “operating” a vehicle to “driving” a vehicle. This change is within the -13 amendment - and from what we understand will be in the next/final amendment.

This change to the current bill will clarify a potential problem for us with our day-to-day use of bucket/boom trucks in construction, maintenance and repairs of utilities and other construction projects. We do not operate the boom equipment when the vehicle is being driven; it is operated only from a stationary and safe position. The truck has to remain running to power the equipment. Depending on the specific work and the surrounding conditions we might utilize a mobile electronic device when using the equipment – *including communications with safety personnel on the ground.*

We appreciate the willingness of ODOT Rep. Olson and others to fix the bill by deleting the term “operating” and replacing it with “driving” in the amendments. This clarifies the issue and should allow us to continue to do our work safely.



IBEW Electricians using bucket/boom trucks while working on traffic signal near Keizer Station 5/23/17

We urge your adoption of this change into the final version of the bill. Thank you.



**IBEW Local 125
Utility Linemen
&
Oregon State Association
of Electrical Workers
(IBEW)**



**Sheet Metal and
Air Conditioning
Contractors National
Association**



**Plumbing and
Mechanical Contractors
Association**