



Senate Committee on Rules
srules.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

RE: SB 828-A

June 14, 2017

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

SB 828-A affects many different kinds of retail establishments, including large propane dealers. The Pacific Propane Gas Association (PPGA) opposes SB 828-A.

PPGA opposes the bill because of the right to rest between work shifts which requires that an employer cannot make an employee work within less than 10 hours from the conclusion of an employee's work shift, unless the employee provides permission. As a result of this provision, the employee now is in the driver's seat in how a particular business can service the needs of its customers. This is of particular concern to the propane industry. At times, emergency services need to be performed to prevent leaks, fire or other catastrophes. With the urgent need to respond to such an event and already having limited resources at its disposal (i.e., limited staff), the right to rest provision could place further restrictions on an employer's options and could result in a significant consequence.

Further, paying time and a half for these hours worked directly conflicts with Oregon's overtime paying current practices. In Oregon, overtime is paid on the 41st hour worked in a work week. By paying overtime as compensation for an employee giving up their right to rest, that employee is earning more pay than is contemplated by current Oregon law. And, moreover, the employee's pay is no longer calculated correctly or fairly and could result in paying an employee overtime twice for an hour worked in lieu of rest.

We encourage the committee to vote no on the bill, or amend it so it does not apply to businesses which deal with hazardous materials. Thank you for your attention.

Lana Butterfield
Oregon lobbyist
Pacific Propane Gas Association
lanab@teleport.com