

June 22, 2017

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

RE: HB 2597A – Supporting amendments that clarify the definition of “driving”

This letter is in support of amendments to HB 2597A that will make changes to language in the bill to more clearly define what is considered driving.

Changes to the current bill are needed to clarify a potential problem for us with our day-to-day operation of bucket/boom trucks in construction, maintenance and repairs of utilities and other construction projects.

The truck has to remain running to power and operate the boom equipment. We do not operate the boom equipment when the vehicle is being driven; it is operated only from a stationary and safe position. 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, Sen. Prozanski and others to find workable solutions for our workers. By including clarifying language in the bill it should allow us to continue to do our work safely.

We urge your adoption of these important changes into the final version of the bill.
Thank you.



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



**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**