



**TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE**

**DATE: FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

**RE: OPPOSITION TO HB 3022**

Chair Barker and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Kevin Campbell and I'm here today on behalf of the Associated Oregon Loggers to speak in opposition to HB 3022. In Oregon, nearly 800 primarily small, rural, family-owned logging companies perform the on-the-ground work of forest harvest, reforestation, tree improvement and firefighting across the 30 million acres of Oregon forestlands. For the Associated Oregon Loggers and our members, the safety of our workers is the paramount priority. The Mahonia Hall workers compensation reforms can be credited with creating a system that resulted in significant workplace safety improvements for the nearly 10,000 workers employed by AOL member companies through an aggressive focus on safe practices. The secondary benefit of increased safety in our inherently dangerous profession is a reduction in cost to our financially strained logging companies. The drastic changes included in HB 3022 would certainly compromise the strides we have made as a result of the Mahonia Hall reforms and would drastically increase the amount of litigation over workers' claims.

Oregon has some of the lowest worker comp rates in the nation and one of the best safety records relative to worksite accidents. It is a model for other states to replicate. It is working well for both injured employees and the employers who work to keep them safe. To repeal the excellent work done at the Mahonia Hall proceedings would be a disservice to both employees and employers alike. HB 3022 would reverse many of the improvements to Oregon's Workers' Compensation System which were negotiated between labor and management during the 1990s and which have made Oregon's system a model for the nation.

We urge you to oppose HB 3022