



April 15, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Zoë Bradbury, Valley Flora Farm
RE: Support for House Bill 2015: Equal Access to Roads Act

Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair Representative Caddy McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Zoë Bradbury. I own and operate Valley Flora Farm in Langlois, Oregon, and I am writing to urge you to support HB 2015.

I am encouraged that this piece of legislation is on the table, at a time when the national political climate on immigration has become so ugly and inhumane. It is no secret that the agricultural economy in Oregon and throughout the nation is borne on the backs of immigrants. They do the hardest, dirtiest, often most dangerous, and arguably most important jobs that exist, and right now Oregon law forces many of them to get to and from work illegally, without a driver's license.

HB 2015 upholds values that are core to me: treating people with respect and dignity regardless of citizenship status or skin color or birthplace. Certainly immigration is a controversial topic, but so far no one has come up with a viable, legal solution that meets agriculture's labor needs. Every farmer I know in Oregon is struggling with labor shortages, and I know workers who live in fear of being torn apart from their families as they risk the commute to and from work each day.

HB 2015 is a chance to at least get one thing right in this immigration mess right now: to treat our invaluable farmhands and agricultural workers with the respect they are due, given all they contribute to our businesses and the economy. Give them peace of mind on our roads, and make our roads safer in the process.

I support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Zoë Bradbury
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