



April 15, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

From: Ana Molina, Beyond Toxics

RE: 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 Ana Moina and I work with Beyond Toxics as their Statewide Environmental Justice Liaison. We are based in Eugene, Oregon with an additional office near Medford, Oregon. As a statewide organization with a broad membership throughout Oregon, we urge you to support HB 2015.

Many of our members support this bill for the following reasons. The ability to drive legally is a core daily need for many Oregon families to enable everyone to take their kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need. Beyond Toxics works on issues impacting farmworkers and recognizes that many farmworkers need drivers licenses to travel to and from work. Having a driver's licenses could make it possible for farm workers to look for housing outside of the agricultural housing that is offered. This is an important benefit of approving drivers licenses because it helps prevent non-work related pesticide exposures to harmful chemicals for farmworkers and their families.

Being unable to access a license to drive puts many immigrants without legal status in an impossible position: they must either choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their family. Oregonians shouldn't have to live in fear of being deported or worry about their families being torn apart simply because they are taking their kids to school, going to work, or taking care of their family or neighbors.

HB 2015 upholds Oregon values of fairness, looking out for our neighbors, and treating others as we would want to be treated. In Oregon, we believe in welcoming others, including those who may seem different, and building those bridges of understanding.

In many communities, especially in rural Oregon, it's not practical or safe for people to

walk for miles on country roads just to get to and from work or take care of their families.

This is why we support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Please remember you have our support when voting on this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
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Beyond Toxics  
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