



April 1, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Jan Montes, RJOc Racial Justice Organizing Committee
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 Jan Montes, Co-Chair of RJOc Racial Justice Organizing Committee in Salem, Oregon, and I urge you to support HB 2015.

HB 2015, although I find it preposterous for our fellow immigrants to need to time and time again fight for such a basic right, to be able to drive a vehicle without potentially being criminalized, would indeed be a giant step back in the right direction for some of the most important people in Oregon; Oregon's farmworkers.

HB2015, is called the Equal Access to Roads Act which name in and of itself means that all residents in Oregon would be able to access a standard driver license when they meet the appropriate age, competency, payment, and insurance requirements. I believe that this Act would make our state safer and more fair for all people living and residing in Oregon.

Not only does HB2015 make sure that a resident of Oregon's information is secure and not shared with the federal government, it also includes anti-discrimination language so we aren't targeted for having a standard license verses a Real ID license.

I have lived in Oregon the majority of my life in Oregon beginning in the 1960s which has afforded me a long and clear view of the push and pull discrimination and the ever-present menace of criminalization our governments has had upon our farmworkers. I have worked alongside of immigrants my entire life whether it be farm work or social work or just friendship. Criminalizing these extremely important Oregon families, who provide a great service and quite frankly add to the wonderful culture and many other facets whether it be educational or work related, for simply driving a vehicle to commute to work, school, the store, the doctor or any activity any is absolutely in this day and age an abuse, in my opinion, to all persons in our state.

I am in support of HB 2015 and encourage this committee to please pass it unanimously. It is my hope that you will remember these thoughts and realities while voting on this bill.

Sincerely,

Jan Montes
RJOc Racial Justice Organizing Committee
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