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April 17, 2019

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

Subject: Support for HB 2015 Equal Access to Roads Act

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Beyer, Representative McKeown and Committee members,

I am writing to urge your support for HB 2015. Being able to drive safely, legally and without fear is a basic human right. All Oregon residents who are old enough and can pass a driving test should be able to drive to work, take their families shopping and to church and to go wherever else they would like to go. They should be able to do this without fear of arrest, seizure of their vehicle and deportation.

Oregon agriculture is a major part of our state's economy. The nursery industry alone has almost \$1 billion in sales, most of which is from out of state. Oregon's successful agricultural industry depends on thousands of workers who need to be able to get to work. Ensuring that they have legal and safe access to our roads is essential. Without them, businesses would fail and Oregon's agricultural industry would collapse.

Thank you for considering this very import legislation. My only additional request is to implement it as soon as possible, hopefully by January 2020. The current situation is untenable and needs to be corrected as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Gilbert". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jim Gilbert

Owner, Northwoods Nursery Inc.