



April 16, 2019

TO: Joint Committee on Transportation

FR: Lynn Youngbar, One Small Thing PDX

RE: House bill 2015 Equal Access to Roads Act

Dear Co Chairs Senator Lee Beyer and Representative Caddy McKeown, members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

My name is Lynn Youngbar and I am part of the leadership team of a grassroots organization called One Small Thing PDX. We have 550 members in the greater Portland area. We strongly urge you to support HB 2015 Equal Access to Roads Act. It is crucial to our community that we not put people's lives at risk by having unlicensed people forced to drive illegally because they cannot get a driver's license.

This bill would require all drivers to pass a written safety exam and driver's test and have insurance before they can legally drive. These folks are members of our community. They work, pay their bills and provide for their families. We believe in treating everyone equally regardless of legal status. To not grant them driver's licenses puts them at risk of arrest and deportation if they are forced to drive or forces them into an incredibly difficult situation.

For the last few years, I have hired a man from Mexico to work in my yard—he's lived here for 20 years. He is very skilled and did a great job, but he would have to have a friend drive him and his tools to my house the evening before he worked and then take a bus to and from my house the following two days--requiring him to spend 3 – 5 extra hours in travel to earn two day's pay. Is this fair? No. He is law-abiding and works hard to support his family. He is here legally but not a citizen and he should have the right to drive.

These people are members of our community, our neighbors, our workers. They deserve to be treated like everyone else. We strongly support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Lynn Youngbar  
One Small Thing PDX, a member of Indivisible  
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