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April 17, 2019

To: The Joint Committee on Transportation  
From: Will Layng, Portland Jobs with Justice, Executive Director  
Re: Support of House Bill 2015

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and McKeown and Members of the Committee,

I write to you today on behalf of Portland Jobs with Justice, and in support of House Bill 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act. Portland Jobs with Justice is a coalition of over 100 labor, community, student, and faith organizations that work together for workers rights and economic justice. We believe that immigrant rights are key in creating economic justice and a just society. Particularly at time when immigrants in our community are under attack by extremist, racist, and xenophobic forces, it is more important than ever that Oregon fully embraces what it should mean to be a sanctuary state. We must have the courage to take concrete action and implement policies to ensure that all are welcome.

HB 2015 is a powerful example of courageous action we can take now, in the wake of the defeat of Measure 105, to keep moving towards a future where immigrants are truly welcomed in the fullness of their humanity in Oregon. By ensuring the ability to secure a driver's license, we ensure that our neighbors have the ability to safely look for work, commute, pay their bills and feed their families, and live as full members of our community. Access to our roads is especially important in rural areas of Oregon that don't have the same public transportation infrastructure as urban centers like the Portland Metro area.

On behalf of the Portland Jobs with Justice coalition and the thousands of individual members that we represent, we endorse HB 2015, and ask you to take courageous action to create equity and economic justice in Oregon by passing the Equal Access to Roads Act.

Thank you,

Will Layng  
Executive Director  
Portland Jobs with Justice