

April 17, 2019C

To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Doug Holmgren
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 Doug Holmgren, I live in SW Portland, and I urge you to support HB 2015.

HB 2015 would expand eligibility for a standard (Class C) driver license to all Oregon residents regardless of citizenship status. Passage of this bill would make our roads safer for all Oregonians.

- Currently, Oregon denies the right to drive legally to undocumented residents, yet these persons have the same core everyday needs that all Oregonians do, such as taking kids to school, commuting to work, and taking care of family and neighbors in need. As a result, many immigrants without legal status must choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation, or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their loved ones.
- HB 2015 would require all drivers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, to pass a written safety exam and driver's test and provide proof of identity and insurance, thus making Oregon roads safer for everyone.
- In many communities, particularly in rural Oregon, it is not practical or safe for people to walk for miles on rural roads to get to work or take care of everyday family needs.
- The overwhelming defeat of Measure 105 in last November's election showed emphatically that Oregonians believe in fairness and in looking out for our neighbors, treating all as we wish to be treated. HB 2015 is keeping with these Oregon values.

I support HB 2015 for these reasons and encourage this committee to pass it. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Doug Holmgren
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