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## Support for House Bill 2015: Equal Access to Roads Act

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Caddy McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

We urge your support for House Bill 2015, which would allow qualified Oregon residents to obtain a regular Class-C driver license. It will return driver license eligibility to pre-2008 standards by requiring identification, proof of residency and ability to drive. HB 2015 also puts Oregon in line with Washington State and California, which both have expanded eligibility for non-Real ID driver licenses.

**One in eight workers in Oregon is an immigrant, and in agriculture, that number is much higher.** This bill is highly significant to Oregon agriculture because it will allow all agricultural workers to get to their jobs safely and reliably. Agriculture is responsible for billions of dollars in revenue to Oregon, and its producers rely heavily on immigrant and migrant labor. Oregon is also uniquely situated to be home to many specialty crops, which require highly skilled workers to make sure we can produce niche products.

Oregon agriculture is facing a workforce shortage, in part due to Congress's inaction on federal immigration policy. There is not much Oregon can do to help our local farmers with that issue, but the Oregon legislature can do one small thing by making sure people in our farming communities can get to work safely and legally.

**It's common sense for rural Oregon.** All Oregonians, regardless if they are urban or rural and what documents they possess, need to be able to participate in the local economy and prove they can drive, get licensed and obtain auto insurance. Prior to 2008 and for decades before that, proving that you are a resident of the state, providing proof of your identity and the ability to pass the written and driving test was the standard. It made sense – learn how to drive and be safe on the roads.

HB 2015 is a logical follow-up to the 2017 Real ID law. We will have a Real ID-compliant enhanced license in 2020. HB 2015 ensures that those who do not want, or cannot get, a Real ID can still drive legally in Oregon. **We urge your support for House Bill 2015.**