



6899 NE Columbia Blvd, Suite A, Portland, OR 97218

4/8/2019

To: Chair Beyer, Chair McKeown, Vice-Chair Boquist, Vice-Chair Noble, Senator Bentz, Senator Frederick, Senator Gelser, Representative Evans, Representative Findley, Representative McClain, Representative Witt

Re: HB 2015

Chair Beyer, Chair McKeown, Vice-Chair Boquist, Vice-Chair Noble, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am the Climate and Energy Policy Coordinator at Verde. Verde is community-based organization in Portland that serves communities by building environmental wealth through social enterprise, outreach, and advocacy. We also advocate for community-controlled, community-benefiting energy and for environmental justice more broadly. Verde strongly supports HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act. It would directly and positively affect members of our community in Cully and it ties in to principles of environmental justice around access and an equitable balance of benefits and burdens. But more importantly, It is the right thing to do.

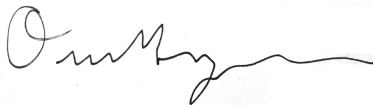
House Bill 2015 upholds Oregon's values of fairness, looking out for our neighbors, and treating others as we would want to be treated. It allows all Oregon residents who pass written and driving tests, pay the fees, and provide proof of identity and residency to receive a standard driver's license, regardless of citizenship status. Returning Oregon to pre-2008 requirements would support immigrants without legal status, the elderly, folks who are unhoused, and people who have been displaced because of domestic violence, natural disasters, or other events.

A driver's license is essential in some parts of the state, especially rural communities, where there is not good transit access, infrastructure for biking and walking, or where people have to travel long distances. It is also essential for everyday activities like taking a child to school or

performing some jobs, such as construction and landscaping. Moreover, a license is an acceptable form of identification for some state and community services, including access to housing. Everyone has a right to drive safely, and receive needed services without fear of deportation. In the past two years, the number of immigrants deported as a result of traffic violations alone increased 138%, and many people are afraid to seek out assistance programs such as weatherization and energy assistance, because they may have to disclose their citizenship status through identification requirements. A driver's license is also required by many landlords as part of application or leasing processes.

On a personal note, this bill is important to me because my grandmother immigrated from Germany and lived in Michigan and New York for many years without documentation. She eventually found a path to citizenship, but was not a citizen when my mother was born, and in her personal writing she talked about constantly feeling like a criminal and facing restrictions in daily life. As a European immigrant, she was afforded privileges that many other people are not, and as such, I feel a duty to ensure that everyone can live in fair and inclusive communities. It's the spirit of Oregon and we must uphold that. I urge you as members of the committee to support HB 2015, the Equal Access to Roads Act with a "do pass" recommendation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oriana Magnera", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Oriana Magnera

Climate and Energy Policy Coordinator, Verde