



To: Joint Committee on Transportation
From: Amber Halbert Childress
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 Iris Hodge and I am here on behalf of the Main Street Alliance of Oregon. We are a statewide network of 4,000 small business owners that believe HB 2015 is good for our economy and good for Oregon.

Our network consists of small businesses across industry from farms, to cafés and restaurants and small construction firms. Many of our members are in rural communities and this bill would be incredibly impactful for these small businesses. With such a low unemployment rate, we need to make sure that every viable, qualified worker, has access to a license to drive.

HB 2015 allows our employees to travel to worksites, on errands for supplies, to and from work and school without fear of being profiled and potentially deported because it is a actual legal state drivers license. Since 2016, deportations due to traffic violations increased by 138%, this is not a risk that our communities need to be facing, the solution is HB 2015.

Additionally, under threat of deportation, many of our customers are not able to get around to shop in our small businesses. Between 80,000 and 100,000 Oregonians would benefit from drivers license expansion. That means more customers helping Oregon's small businesses to thrive. If you support this bill for no other reason than for the positive economic impact, that is enough but we know that our communities need each other, regardless of citizenship status. We need our families to stay together, we need our roads safe and we need to pass HB 2015.

Sincerely,

Iris Hodge