

May 6, 2019.

Dear House Rules Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Randy Hauth, and I serve as the Elected Committee Chairperson for the Business Enterprise Consumer Committee Of Oregon-(BECC), which is a Federally mandated and State authorized "public board" and by its design (is to) provide representation and advocacy on behalf of the Blind Vending Facility Managers here in Oregon, those who are licensed through the Oregon Commission for the Blind's Business Enterprise Program.

With that shared, please "also" know that I am a Blind Vending Facility Manager here in Oregon, "myself" and as well a life long blind Oregonian, and as well that I have derived my employment opportunity by way of the Business Enterprise Program (doing so) for more than (30) years now, as a successful Blind Entrepreneur, right along side of my fellow blind colleagues.

It is in such capacity that I contact you today, (providing to you) written testimony relevant to HB 3431, which is scheduled for Public Hearing before the House Rules Committee on Wednesday May 8th, 2019. and which I pronounce my non support of on behalf of the Blind Vendors in Oregon, whom I represent.

Therefore, and while I have had several conversations with Metro's lobbyist, and Metro's venue manager, relevant to this matter, and while those talks have been somewhat productive, (there still remains more to do) whereas concerns continue to remain around the broad sweeping scope of this proposed (HB) language which was introduced by Metro, late in session, as well as concurs still remain as to the negative impact that such proposed language would have upon the employment opportunities for persons who are blind here in Oregon.

Please know, that with over a 70% unemployment rate among blind Oregonians, Metro's proposed language by way of HB 3431, most certainly raises serious concerns within the Business Enterprise Program, as well as within the blindness Community itself, and if such language were enacted (it would most certainly) impose severe and negative impacts upon those employment opportunities intended for Blind Oregonians, by way of law.

With this contact, it is my hope and desire that this Committee, encourages more thoughtful and prudent conversation, and consideration, relevant to "both" the (intended and non intended consequences) that HB 3431, may have, doing so through the encouragement of good faith discussion inclusive of Metro, the Oregon Commission for the Blind, and the Business Enterprise Consumer Committee, and as well by encouragement of an Intergovernmental Agreement, and/or a Memorandum of Understanding, here forward outside of the legislative arena, which most certainly can be the rule of the road.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this written testimony.

Sincerely,
Randy Hauth-BECC Chairperson.