

OWFA: The Oregon Workplace Fairness Act

Date: May 7, 2019

To: Chair Williamson  
Vice-Chair Gorsek  
Vice-Chair Sprenger  
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary

From: Jill Kuehler, CEO, Freeland Spirits

RE: Freeland Spirits Support for SB 726A, The Oregon Workplace Fairness Act

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger and members of the House Committee on Judiciary:

Freeland Spirits supports SB 726A which would better protect workers that have faced discrimination in the workplace. We know that current laws don't go far enough to protect harassment victims at work and we support SB 726A. Freeland Spirits is a women owned and operated distillery and we believe women deserve more protection in the workplace.

Women are disproportionately victims of harassment. 82% of EEOC charges were filed by women<sup>1</sup>. Women of color are even more disproportionately victims, filing 56%<sup>2</sup> of the claims while only making up 37% of the workforce and black women specifically are three times more likely to file a claim of harassment than their white counterparts<sup>3</sup>. By having BOLI create standards and procedures for employers and employees regarding sexual harassment, we will begin to create an environment where all women in Oregon can work with dignity and respect.

Freeland Spirits respectfully requests the committee to support SB 726A.

Jill Kuehler  
CEO  
Freeland Spirits  
[jill@freelandspirits.com](mailto:jill@freelandspirits.com)

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/task\\_force/harassment/upload/report.pdf](https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/task_force/harassment/upload/report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/task\\_force/harassment/upload/report.pdf](https://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/task_force/harassment/upload/report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> IPUMS-CPS, University of Minnesota, [www.ipums.org](http://www.ipums.org).