

June 3, 2019

To: Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Committee on Rules
From: Paloma Sparks, OBI
RE: OBI Testimony on HB 3022

Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue for Oregon Business & Industry members. OBI is Oregon's most comprehensive business association representing approximately 1,600 businesses that employ nearly 330,000 people. We represent multiple sectors and serve as the state's Retail and Manufacturing Councils.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on this important issue for Oregon Business & Industry members. OBI is Oregon's most comprehensive business association representing approximately 1,600 businesses that employ nearly 330,000 people. We represent multiple sectors and serve as the state's Retail and Manufacturing Councils.

As introduced, HB 3022 would have rolled back the 1990s Mahonia Hall reforms to the Workers' Compensation system. Prior to these reforms, the system was incredibly costly for employers and did little to improve safety for workers. The current system is now a nationwide model. OBI urged the Legislature to trust in the Management-Labor Advisory Committee (MLAC) system and let stakeholders negotiate an agreement that helped improve access for workers without damaging the entire system.

Over several months, stakeholders negotiated the current version of the bill. Business gave and so did labor and the trial lawyers. Certainly, this is not the bill we would have proposed passing but it is the result of careful negotiation and compromise. Should any significant change be proposed to the bill, we will have to go back to the negotiation table.

OBI thanks you for your trust in the MLAC process.

Contact: Paloma Sparks, OBI, palomasparks@oregonbusinessindustry.com