

Dear Chair Barker,

I am an Oregon business owner. I own three businesses: a mortgage brokerage, a property management company and a part-time CPA business. I am very concerned with HB 3031 and SB 947.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to do business in Oregon. I feel like the legislature is anti-business, The tax and regulatory burden is excessive. Between the existing paid sick leave law, minimum wage increase, property tax burdens, state transit tax, and reporting requirements, I wonder if it is worthwhile employing 15 people. I am considering decreasing my operations rather than expanding.

I strongly recommend that you vote against these bills. I am sure you are aware that a growing number of Oregon businesses are considering migrating to more business friendly states. I have had friends move their families and businesses to Idaho. I came to Oregon forty-nine years ago. I love the state, but I am increasingly concerned with anti-business decisions, e.g. rent controls, coming out of the legislature. It will not take too much more for me and my companies to leave the state.

Sincerely yours,

Phillip H. Gerstner