



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

TO: Chair Holvey
Vice-Chairs Grayber and Bonham
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

FR: Catie Theisen, OR AFL-CIO

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2682

February 8, 2021

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents 300,000 workers across Oregon and is a voice for all workers in the legislative process.

HB 2682 comes out of a tragedy involving an Oregon AFSCME member working in Benton County who was killed on the job operating an unsafe piece of heavy equipment. Oregon OSHA concluded that the heavy equipment had numerous mechanical issues and was being operated with little to no training.

Although Oregon OSHA has rules that address some of these issues, clearly, the existing rules did not prevent the death of this worker and likely countless other injuries. HB 2682 directs OSHA to adopt rules to better ensure safety: required maintenance, trainings, logs, checking contractor assessments, and doing regular equipment inspections -- all of which are currently not required for leasing agencies and employers.

It's critical that Oregon OSHA more proactively address safety and health protections for workers operating heavy machinery, instead of just waiting to enforce violations -- often when it is already too late. We encourage your YES vote on HB 2682.