

Sara A. Gelser
State Senator
District 8



Oregon State Senate

February 8, 2021

Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB 2682

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering HB 2682 which is intended to improve safety for workers that use heavy equipment as part of their jobs. Sadly, this bill comes as the result of the tragic death of a Benton County employee whose rental equipment was not maintained adequately to ensure safety for the job for which it was used. It is my hope that HB 2682 will prevent such future tragedies.

This bill is really quite simple. It simply imposes the common sense requirement that companies that lease construction vehicles ensure basic safety standards, maintenance and documentation is kept for all vehicles. Oregon workers deserve no less. When they show up on the job, they should know that they will be using equipment that is safe to operate. They should also know that if they have concerns about their safety that there will be a clear way to address those concerns free of retaliation.

It is unacceptable that a dedicated public works employee lost his life due to poorly maintained equipment that never should have been put out into the field. HB 2682 will help ensure this does not happen again.

Thank you again for your consideration of HB 2682 and I urge your support.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sara".

Sara Gelser