



February 8, 2023

House Committee on Business and Labor

RE: House Bill 2536

Dear Chairperson, vice-chair, and committee members:

As The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce we represent 500+ businesses and over 8,000 employees. Our Chamber has taken a position in opposition of House Bill 2536 due to the state interfering in private business to business contracts. I understand the intention of the bill, but the legislature is not the solution for every problem among private parties.

In private business, the consumer will determine what they can afford, absorb, or pass on to their customer. In this instance, the restaurants or any business using this service, will determine what they are willing to pay for this type of service. If the cost of the service is too high the consumer, not the government, will seek other companies that provide a similar service or they will get creative, as they did during the pandemic, and find in-house methods. Our business owners are intelligent people who have the skills to negotiate for services that they need to keep in business. We do not need our legislators regulating our private businesses and their ability to fully negotiate contracts with other businesses. This is a Pandora's box that should NEVER be opened. This is not how we do proper business! I ask that you oppose HB 2536.

Thank you for allowing me to be a voice for our businesses here in The Dalles and Wasco County.

Lisa Farquharson  
President / CEO