



February 14, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Lynn Herbert, owner of Herbert Lumber Company in Riddle, OR am writing in support of HB 2722. Our workforce is our greatest asset and key to our success. Although, we strive daily to make top quality lumber there are many other tasks that keep us in business that could be done by the hard working high school students we have in our community if given the opportunity to operate power driven machinery in the workplace.

Some important aspects of our business are fire prevention and our compliance efforts. If we could hire youth to operate power driven machinery, we could employ them for the purpose of clearing vegetation, using powered tools to clear debris from around machines and equipment, operating backhoes or similar equipment to keep our facility safe from fire all while fulfilling our compliance requirements set forth by the state. It would allow minors an opportunity for resume building and real life experiences. These tasks are also imperative to ensuring the safety of our employees which would give them hands on professional training to safety in the workplace. It would allow the students to learn how to report to work, give them a sense of accountability, teach them how to follow instructions, how to safely and properly operate power tools and machinery, and give them some exposure to manufacturing facilities in our area.

In our current workforce and applicants that we come across, it is not uncommon for individuals to not have had prior exposure to these types of skills. Many high schools have had to cut programs such as wood shop and mechanics courses which has left a void on learning how to safely and properly operate power tools and power driven machinery, as well as how to maintain and care for them. There is a real opportunity for teaching within the workplace and giving hands on experience to our youth while earning an income through HB 2722.

Sincerely,

Lynn Herbert
Herbert Lumber Company