



As the owner and CEO of Willamette Technical Fabricators, a certified Oregon Benefit Company, I would like to express my strong support for HB 3572. Willamette Technical Fabricators is a custom complex metal fabrication company focused on transportation and clean energy infrastructure, including bridges, hydropower dams, and developing innovative solutions to help Oregon become more resilient and energy-independent. We are also a certified woman-owned, minority-owned, disadvantaged small business, committed to the quadruple bottom line of people, planet, purpose, and profit. We provide high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers to the communities who need them most, specifically supporting women, people of color, and people who have been impacted by the criminal justice system, and providing them with on-the-job training to be able to have a positive and permanent impact in their own communities.

HB 3572 will give Oregon small businesses that are also Oregon Benefit Companies like us a sustainable advantage when seeking contracts through the Oregon State procurement office. Whether supporting ODOT to ensure our bridges are ready to withstand a major earthquake, or supporting the Port of Portland's dredge operations to ensure a clear path for goods from across the state to reach the Pacific Ocean, we are constantly faced with difficult tradeoffs related to procuring locally sourced and recycled materials and providing our employees with competitive wages and benefits, instead of focusing exclusively on maximizing shareholder returns. Prioritizing businesses that share these values and that make deliberate efforts to minimize our impact on the environment and to create a more equitable economy inevitably results in tradeoffs that may reduce short-term costs savings in order to maximize long-term benefits for everyone. Providing businesses like ours with a 5% "buffer" to account for those costs will allow Benefit Companies to compete with businesses who have put profit above all else, and provide Oregon taxpayers with significant returns on this nominal investment. It will also serve as an incentive for businesses who have not yet made the commitment to consider the externalities of their operations to become Oregon Benefit Companies like us, and reduce the untold "downstream" costs of less sustainable business practices that are disproportionately born by low-income, BIPOC, indigenous, and rural communities, as well as by future generations.

As an economist and former National Science Foundation-funded researcher of Payments for Ecosystem Services, and a current member of the Board of Directors for the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's Portland Branch, the Board of Trustees for the National Small Business Association, and the Board of Directors for Business for a Better Portland, I recognize the potential gains from similar legislation that has been proven in the Chicago and Los Angeles metro areas. Thank you for your support for this impactful legislation for Oregon's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alicia Chapman".

Alicia Chapman