



JOINT COUNCIL OF TEAMSTERS NO. 37

Affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters

February 7th, 2024

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
Attention: Chairman Representative Holvey
Re: House Bill 4127

Dear Chair, Holvey and Committee Members,

This letter is to encourage your support for House Bill 4127.

My name is Steve Konopa, and I am the principal officer of Teamsters Local 305 in Northeast Portland. I am also the statewide Legislative Director for the Teamsters Joint Council 37. I have been a life-long advocate for working people in Oregon, specifically union members that work under a collective-bargaining agreement.

House Bill 4127 was initiated by our International Teamster office in Washington, DC. This legislation has been passed in the states of New York, California, Washington, and other states. It is continuing to be introduced again this year throughout the country.

The goal of all this is to improve the working environment in warehouses for workers in our America, specifically if they are un-represented by a Union. Many warehouse workers in America today do not have outside work-related representation and are at the mercy of their employer to be properly trained. Especially in the larger warehouses.

There have been documented dangerous and hazardous working conditions with these companies. Production quotas and standards that are considered unrealistic for the workers to achieve. Expectations that are ever changing, that can be manipulated without proper consideration or feasible calibration. Operating procedures for production workers have not been consistently conveyed or fully explained properly to their workforce, which then leads to unsafe working conditions, serious accidents, and injury. Workers have the right and deserve to know what their expectations are and need the ability to adjust or adapt through education from their employer or with advanced warning and training.

Mark Davison - President

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Please consider supporting House Bill 4127. We are not trying to hinder or dictate any company's ability to operate their business. That is not our goal here nor do we have the authority. We only ask that companies be held accountable and transparent for the safety and well-being of the workers that make them profitable. Every employee deserves the right to work in a safe environment and to know the expectations of their employment.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter before you.

Sincerely,

Steve Konopa
Legislative Director
Teamsters Joint Council 37

If you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 503-251-2305 or email steve.konopa@jcteamsters37.com