



THE DALLES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
The Dalles...Simply Sunsational.

March 4, 2019

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the committee,

I am writing today to express my concerns about the impacts of HB 2498. This proposed bill threatens work opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs across the state.

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce represents 469 Businesses who are committed growing business opportunities and providing living-wage jobs for families in our communities. We support and advocate entrepreneurs and the jobs they create in our communities (We have business members of The Dalles Area Chamber Counties in 13 counties in Oregon). Individuals often choose the 'independent contractor' model because they prefer the greater earning potential and flexibility of being their own boss. Many of our businesses utilize these contractors daily to keep their businesses profitable and efficient. HB 2498 discourages entrepreneurship by limiting the earning potential for many Oregonians who are self-employed, including home-grown businesses and those who are just starting out.

The proposed 'independent contractor test' in HB 2498 also threatens existing contracts and work opportunities for businesses that perform work that is like the business entity retaining their services. This would result in higher taxes and business costs, less flexibility for those seeking self-employment, and potentially fewer jobs, since many employers would be unable to afford the cost of hiring new employees. Our businesses cannot afford any more added costs or increases!!!

HB 2498 is unfair and harmful to local business. **I hope you will support businesses in this state and oppose HB 2498.** This bill would hurt our rural community greatly as many of our businesses depend on Contractors to keep down the cost of employing staff to carry out each task needed (Contractors are more efficient and properly licensed and bonded to carry out many of the tasks and projects needed for our small businesses). The ability to contract services keeps our businesses more efficient and able to have some margin of profit. If our contractors are eliminated under HB 2498 it would devastate our businesses and our contractors. This is not good business for our small businesses in Oregon. Keep in mind that the backbone of American is built on Small Businesses. Let's not drive them to close with yet another state regulation for our free – enterprise business.

Sincerely,

Lisa Farquharson

Business Development | President/CEO

The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce

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