



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 25, 2023

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on SB 907-A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted in opposition to SB 907-A because Oregon's occupational safety standards and laws are some of the most protective of workers in the nation. Under that system, workers can already refuse work if there is a significant occupational danger and the employer has been unable or unwilling to rectify the issue. And if the employer continues to expose workers to significant workplace hazards, employers are appropriately investigated, fined, and punished. This system forces employers and workers to work collaboratively in enforcing and applying occupational safety procedures.

The effect of this SB 907-A will, in my view, create uncertainty in the workplace and the workforce. What the State should be focusing on is punishing bad actors who shirk their responsibility over their employee safety.

I am also concerned about the unintended consequences of SB 907-A, including the impact on our communities during public safety emergencies. For example, taken to an extreme application, this bill would allow those responsible as first responders for protecting our communities in times of crisis to refuse to do so because of their apprehension of occupational circumstances.

Not only is this a dangerous precedent for our communities, but under the bill there is no recourse for those who neglect their responsibilities to community safety.

While I will continue to work for my community, including for our workers' interests and small businesses, I do not think this SB 907-A will have the desired effect that proponents seek. Rather it places unnecessary regulatory burdens on employers and the workforce and could have downstream consequences which are not considered.

Respectfully submitted into the House record,

Tracy Cramer
State Representative
House District 22