To: Joint Committee on Transportation   April 9, 2019
From: Springfield-Eugene Showing Up for Racial Justice (SE SURJ)
RE: House Bill 2015: Equal Access to Roads Act

Co-Chair Senator Lee Beyer, Co-Chair Representative Caddy McKeown, and Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

Springfield-Eugene Showing Up for Racial Justice (SE SURJ) is based in Springfield and Eugene, and we urge you to support HB 2015.

HB 2015 upholds Oregon's values of fairness, looking out for our neighbors, and treating others as we would want to be treated. In Oregon, we believe in welcoming others, including those of cultures unfamiliar to us, and building those bridges of understanding. Being unable to access a license to drive puts many immigrants without legal status in an impossible position: either choose to drive without a license and risk arrest and deportation or choose not to drive and be unable to provide for their family. Requiring all drivers, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, to pass a written safety exam and driver's test and provide proof of identity and insurance makes Oregon roads and communities safer for everyone.

In many communities, especially in rural Oregon, it's not practical or safe for people to walk for miles on country roads just to get to and from work or take care of their families. The ability to drive legally is a core everyday need for many Oregon families as people take their kids to school, commute to work, and take care of family and neighbors in need. Oregonians shouldn't have to live in fear of being deported or worry about their families being torn apart simply because they are taking their kids to school, going to work, or taking care of their family or neighbors.

This is why we support HB 2015 and encourage this committee to pass HB 2015. Please remember Oregon's community values when voting on this bill. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Carter Mckenzie, Lori Bosteder, Nadia Telsey and Erica Barry
Springfield-Eugene Showing Up for Racial Justice
surj-info@gmail.com