

14 July 2016

The Honorable Kurt Schrader US House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Re: Overtime Reform and Enhancement Act

Dear Congressman Schrader:

On behalf of the nearly 3,000 member companies of the Oregon Home Builders Association, we thank you for taking the lead on this critical issue. As you know, the rule recently adopted by the US Department of Labor would double the salary threshold for employees being considered as exempt from overtime pay requirements, in the process creating a huge financial and paperwork headache for the construction industry.

Particularly so in Oregon, where most construction is performed by small businesses who don't have HR professionals on staff or employment lawyers on retainer, this is a daunting regulatory burden...which comes on top of a variety of new state-imposed challenges for small employers, ranging from complicated new minimum wage rules to equally complicated new paid sick leave requirements to new BOLI reporting standards.

In addition, putting my personal non-profit-manager hat on, it would create the same problems for the Association itself and the rest of the non-profit sector that it does for our membership. If the rule goes into effect as scheduled, three of my five staff will be subject to the new standards.

Earlier this year, I personally requested and participated in a conference call with OMB and DOL staff, and raised a variety of concerns about both the rule. That call had no effect, of course, but I'm pleased to see that your legislation touches on many of the points that I made in that call and that it would address many of the major problems that the new DOL overtime rule would present. This reasonable, common-sense legislation would provide the time necessary for employers to ensure compliance, communicate changes, and accurately reclassify employees

Well done, Congressman, and thank you. The OHBA, and the NAHB, are ready to do what we can to help you and to effect passage of the Overtime Reform and Enhancement Act. Your good work is much appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Jon A. Chandler

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