



**Written Testimony of David Reid, Director of Government Affairs
DBA International
HB 2826
House Consumer Protection & Government Efficiency Committee
March 28, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and respected members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to offer written comments concerning House Bill 2826. My name is David Reid and I am Director of Government Affairs for DBA International.

DBA is the national nonprofit trade association that represents over 600 public and private companies that purchase distressed asset portfolios on the secondary market. These are the companies the bill refers to as “debt buyers” and are most directly impacted by the legislation that you are considering.

DBA International opposes House Bill 2826 as it takes a decidedly one-sided approach to consumer protection that would create an imbalance in the contractual relationship between the consumer and the holder of the contractual obligation.

However, as DBA International does support concepts contained in this legislation, we would hope to be afforded an opportunity to assist in the development of future legislation that takes a more reasoned and balanced approach – one that considers the valid interests of both the consumer the business communities.

DBA International takes consumer protection very seriously, which is why DBA recently launched a national Debt Buyer Certification Program that is required for

DBA membership. The Debt Buyer Certification Program will require DBA members to conform to 19 standards of best practice. The 19 standards include compliance with state and federal consumer laws, account documentation, chain of title, errors & omissions insurance, criminal background checks, employee training, consumer complaint and dispute resolution, consumer notices, data security, identity theft and fraud, prohibition on selling disputed accounts, state licensing, statute of limitations, vendor management, credit bureau reporting, resale of accounts, the creation of the position of Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), maintenance of a website, and publishing both company and CCO contact information on both the DBA and the company's websites that must also include information on consumer rights. These standards will be audited by independent third party auditors.

In conclusion, if there is a problem in Oregon that needs to be addressed then all the stakeholders should sit down and develop a thoughtful and balanced approach that respects both the consumer and the business community's interests equally. It is possible to have legislation that garners the support of both consumer advocates and businesses – DBA has seen this first hand in our efforts in other states – this should be the goal of this bill as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions as DBA is always available to participate in open dialogue on this or any other topic you may wish to discuss.

I appreciate your time. Thank you.

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