



April 4th, 2013

Testimony on HB 3447
Representative Betty Komp

Chair Holvey and Members of the House Consumer Protection and Government efficiency Committee:

For the record, my name is Betty Komp and I represent Oregon House district 22 which covers Woodburn Gervais and N. Salem.

I come before you today to present HB 3447 which I have been working on since 2007.

I would like to let everyone know that I presented a bill in the 76th Legislative Session that may sound very similar to HB3447. It was also about floral order facilitators and it also had to do with out-of-state companies misrepresenting themselves as being local florists. That bill, having passed both the House and Senate, was the only bill from the 76th session to be vetoed by the Governor. It was vetoed because it also dealt with limiting the amount of commission that a national company could charge.

A lot of work has gone into the concept behind HB 3447 to make it more about consumer protection.

The purpose of this bill is not to stop companies from doing business in Oregon or even to restrict them in conducting their business. What HB 3447 attempts to do is keep floral companies honest about their physical location. It will also make sure that floral consumers in Oregon will not be deceived as to where their delivery charge has originated.

The problem that a constituent of mine, who plans on testifying here today stated the impact of this issue to me as truly detrimental to small flower shops all over the state.

By allowing floral companies to falsely represent their address as being in Oregon, it tricks the consumer into believing that they are supporting local small business when, in fact, they are doing just the opposite.

By placing these orders through companies that are misrepresenting themselves they are creating a situation where all of the fees and unnecessary payments are laid on the small business while the out-of-state company reaps all of the profits.

HB 3447 doesn't aim to restrict companies from making sales over the internet in Oregon. It doesn't prevent a medium sized floral shop from opening multiple locations and advertising as

local. What this bill does is create transparency that helps consumers that would rather buy local know that they are buying local.

Thank you for your time and I urge your support of HB 34447.