

Thursday April 11, 2013

Testimony in support of HB3467

Chair Barker, members of the committee– for the record, my name is Peter Oberdorf and I am here today to testify in support of HB 3467.

I am General Manager of the investment firm Darius Capital Company, which seeks to attract investors from all over the world for emerging growth client companies. My responsibilities include client and investor relations, administrative services, and brand or reputation management. I also retain a website to periodically market and provide services such as brand strategy development, illustration, identity, naming, as well as writing and design services for web and print media.

I rely upon the results of web searches to attract and gain the confidence of new business prospects. Darius Capital Company investors conduct a due diligence web search on Darius management, of which I am included.

A few months ago, I was pulled over for expired tags while driving my 85 year-old mother home from a beach outing. The officer asked me to perform a field test, balancing on one leg which I could not and still cannot perform due to years of sports injuries to my knees and ankles. As a result, I failed the test and I was brought back to the station and booked which included having a “mug shot” taken of me. I took a breathalyzer test and blew a .01-- as many of you know .08 or above is the threshold for a DUI offense. After my negative breathalyzer I was “free to go” However I had no one to pick me up and they had already impounded my car, so I spent a horrific night in jail.

I returned for a hearing on the 25th of February, where I was told that the judge had “declined prosecution” due to no evidence of wrongdoing.

Regardless of the fact that I was cleared of all wrong doing, my mug-shot now appears in the middle of my illustrations and my business photo on Google searches. This is now affecting my career, my income and the success of our growing international investment firm, a firm dedicated to finding money for REAL growing businesses.

The first web site responsible for this attack was “mugshotworld.com”. This web site, and others like them, require me to pay hundreds of

dollars to remove these photos. This is extortion, a violation of my privacy, and the unlawful use of my image. Since mugshotworld.com began trying to extort money from me, another mug shot of a woman with my name under it has appeared, this one posted by "bustedmugshots.com".

My mug shot remains plastered over the Internet by companies which so far, have not responded to my requests to remove them. Again, this is very damaging to me personally, as well as my reputation and any future opportunities. And it is also affecting the success of our growing international investment firm.

Oregon laws need to keep up with our growing technological advances and protect Oregonians from these unscrupulous "businesses." I urge this committee to support this very important piece of legislation.