

Dear Representative Holvey,

Please support the Consumer Credit Fairness Act, House Bill 2826-2.

Within the last few years, debt buyers have flooded Oregon courts with lawsuits seeking judgments on debts. Unfortunately, these lawsuits are filed with very little evidence of the validity of the underlying debt or documentation that the debt buyer is suing the **right person** for the **right amount**. Oregon's debt collection laws were written before the debt buying industry existed and do not adequately protect consumers.

In 2010, the Federal Trade Commission concluded that the debt collection legal system was broken. Among other problems, the FTC found that complaints filed by debt buyers in collection lawsuits rarely contain sufficient information to allow consumers to admit or deny the allegations or raise affirmative defenses. A subsequent FTC report released earlier this year reiterates these concerns - highlighting the fact that the accuracy of the accounts and information that debt buyers purchase are not guaranteed and that those purchased accounts rarely come with documentation sufficient for bringing lawsuits.

House Bill 2826-2 is a measured attempt to stop such abuses of our legal system. Its main provisions require that creditors provide 30-day notice to defendants before filing suit and that they be able to document their debts before filing suit or being awarded a judgment. Such documentation includes a contract or written evidence of the original debt, an itemized accounting of the amount sought including charges imposed by the debt buyer, documentation that the plaintiff is the owner of the debt, and documentation that the statute of limitations for collecting the debt has not expired.

Consumers should pay the debt that they owe. But consumers also deserve basic protections to ensure that debt buyers are pursuing legal action against the **right person** for the **right amount**.

Please stand up for Oregon consumers and support House Bill 2826-2.

Sincerely,

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