

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency

From: Main Street Alliance of Oregon Small Businesses

Date: May 7, 2013

Re: Letter in Support of SB 558

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

**Main Street Alliance of Oregon, a coalition of more than 1200 small businesses across Oregon, supports SB 558.** As small business owners, we rely on all of our local communities' support to keep our doors open and keep providing to all those who help us; really, it's a very mutualistic relationship. We know that our community members need to be able to support themselves in order to continue to support us. That's why the Main Street Alliance of Oregon is in full support of SB 558 to open the doors of communication between the lenders and homeowners.

SB 558 will help to protect the thousands of Oregon homeowners who are currently at risk of losing their homes by creating an open dialogue between them and the lenders. By requiring the largest lenders to participate in a resolution conference with homeowners prior to starting a judicial or non-judicial foreclosure, SB 558 gives Oregonians the ability to discuss mutually beneficial alternatives to foreclosure. Any time we can create a more accessible, fair, and transparent process, it benefits communities as a whole. By creating opportunities for discussion and alternatives to foreclosure, homeowners can take better control of their finances, and can therefore make a more positive impact on local communities, helping to support Main Street businesses and bolster our economic growth.

**The Main Street Alliance of Oregon urges you to support SB 558,** as it's the only way to ensure that the benefit of the mediation program passed by this legislature reaches all borrowers in need, regardless of which process the lender chooses to use to foreclose.

Yours respectfully,



Jim Houser, co-chair  
Hawthorne Auto Clinic, Portland



Mark Kellenbeck, co-chair  
BrainJoy LLC, Medford