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MEASURE: SB 678A
EXHIBIT: 5
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SUBMITTED BY: Small Business Task Force

May 21, 2013

Honorable Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair
Honorable Representative Bill Kennemer, Co-Vice Chair
Honorable Representative Shemia Fagan
Honorable Representative Paul Holvey
Honorable Representative Greg Matthews
Honorable Representative Kim Thatcher
Honorable Representative Jim Thompson
Honorable Representative Jim Weidner
Honorable Representative Brad Witt

With the unanimous support of the members of the Task Force on Small Business, we respectfully request that the House Committee on Business and Labor send SB 678-A to the floor with a Do Pass recommendation as soon possible.

This afternoon the Task Force held an informational hearing on the measure. We heard about the 230,000 businesses that now operate under a cloud of uncertainty as to whether they have exclusive remedy protections under workers' compensation statutes. Regardless of the decision of the Oregon Supreme Court anticipated later this year, SB 678 would clearly extend exclusive remedy protections to partners, limited liability company members, general partners, limited liability partners and limited partners. These forms of corporation are increasingly prevalent today and the workers' compensation statutes should be updated to reflect this.

The liability exposure to small businesses not receiving exclusive remedy protections is significant. We heard that for years they paid into the workers' compensation system and assumed they were covered by the liability protection. Please move SB 678-A to the floor so that the body can approve it, as the Senate did on a vote of 28-0. We need to let small businesses know that indeed they have the protection under which they always believed they operated.

Respectfully

Representative Tim Freeman
Co-Chair

Representative Brent Barton
Co-Chair