



Date: February 5, 2013
To: Chair Greenlick and members of the House Health Care Committee
From: Nellie deVries, Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
Subject: Support House Bill 2131

Dear Chair Greenlick and members of the House Health Care Committee,

The Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association (ORLA) asks for your support of House Bill 2131, which requires certain information pertaining to bedbug infestations to be held confidentially by public health authorities and exempts information from disclosure under public records law. Working in an industry directly affected by the emergence of bedbugs in our region, it is important that we collect data to better understand this problem, while protecting the privacy of businesses affected by bedbugs.

Bedbugs have the potential to exact a significant financial toll. Aside from the physical and financial impacts, there is great stigma attached to any business that is unfortunate enough to encounter them. ORLA has been committed to partnering with other organizations to develop a community-wide solution. We have worked closely with the Multnomah County Health Department, the Oregon Pest Control Association, and concerned community members over the last several years to develop effective solutions to this emerging problem.

One critical part of our approach is a robust monitoring and surveillance system. An effective response relies on good data and we believe that data should be collected in a way that fully protects the privacy of those businesses most impacted. House Bill 2131 achieves this protection by exempting certain private information from public record requests.

Sincerely,

Nellie deVries
Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association