



A Division of *LeDoux Insurance Agency Inc.*
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March 14, 2013

House Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency

RE: **Strong Opposition to HB 2525 and 3160**

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

Our agency is opposed to House Bills 2525 and 3160. We believe our current system works well, and changes are likely to increase costs for the consumers we serve.

Insurance companies and insurance products are already governed and regulated by the Oregon Insurance Division. They have the duty to approve each insurance product and policy. Under current law, insurers and insurance agents are subject to trade practices laws in ORS 746, including a section entitled Unfair Claim Settlement Practices.

The Insurance Code gives broad authority to the Department of Consumer & Business Services (DCBS) to prohibit unfair or deceptive acts by insurers and agents. DCBS can issue fines and cease and desist orders to carriers, and revoke the licenses of producers (insurance agents).

Consumers also have additional recourse through the filing of civil actions against insurance companies or agents under contract law for breach of contract. Dual regulation by another agency that doesn't understand the intricacies of insurance transactions will not be in the State's best interest.

Allowing second lawsuits and adding UTPA to the current insurance regulatory framework is redundant and will add costs that will inevitably be paid by consumers. Our customers care about how much their insurance costs.

Please vote "NO!" on HB 2525 and 3160.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Powers
LeDoux Insurance Agency
Salem, OR