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March 15, 2013

To: House Committee on Business and Labor

Re: HB 3141 - Oppose

Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today on behalf of the Oregon Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) in opposition to HB 3141 which would exclude certain types of direct sellers from the definition of "subject workers" under the Oregon Workers' Compensation Law, specifically ORS 656.029.

One of the purposes of the Oregon Workers' Compensation Law is to provide "an exclusive, statutory system of compensation that will provide the *best societal measure of those injuries that bear a sufficient relationship to employment* to merit incorporation of their costs into the stream of commerce." Our law seeks to "provide, regardless of fault, sure, prompt and complete medical treatment for injured workers and fair, adequate and reasonable income benefits to injured workers and their dependents." ORS 656.012. OTLA believes the Oregon Workers' Compensation Law should be as inclusive as possible so all workers in the state are provided the benefits afforded by compliance with the Workers' Compensation Law.

OTLA does not support adding exemptions under ORS 656.029. OTLA also opposes granting a special statutory exemption to the "direct sellers" seeking to avoid workers' compensation coverage in HB 3141.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Marty Alvey
President-Elect, OTLA