

Dear Senator Shields,

I am writing to inform you of my support for SB 1571, a proposed bill addressing fire-chasing restoration companies. On August 8, 2013, Two days after I moved to Portland to begin a graduate program the apartment I was renting with my boyfriend Doug Evans caught fire due to an intentionally set fire at a construction site next door. That fire was a five alarm fire and Portland's largest fire in 13 years. As a brand new resident to the city of Portland I felt very uncertain of our decision to relocate and questioned our safety in this new city due to this violent crime. We have been well supported by the Portland Fire Department, the Red Cross as well as the neighborhood.

Something we were not prepared for was having restoration companies such as ServPro approach us while our house was actively on fire and offer their services. We were fortunate to have renters insurance, something these companies used to persuade us to sign a contract with them, stating that they would work with our insurance and "help" us navigate our challenging situation. What is not discussed by these companies is an estimate for their services or the severity of the the damage to the items they attempt to "salvage." Our fire began at 4:15am and these companies were on the scene, uninvited by any of the victims within hours, approaching us and asking for our business. I feel very strongly that they do have a service to provide for people who have restoration needs but they way that they are allowed to prey upon people when they are in crisis is unacceptable. If I had been provided with opportunity to gather my thoughts, organize my actions and develop a plan prior to being bombarded and fundamentally taken advantage of I would have not selected to use their services.

I am writing you today to request you consider the impact these companies have on the citizens of Portland. Please support SB 1571.

Abby Quarterman and Doug Evans