

February 13, 2015

TO: House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness Chair Shemia Fagan, and Members of the Committee

FR: David Rosenfeld, Executive Director, Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)

RE: Opposition to HB 2794

OSPIRG opposes HB 2794 in its current form.

Of primary concern is the bill's definition of an "authorized reseller" in Section 1(1)(b) and the provision in Section 1(2)(b), which states, "An admission ticket is counterfeit if a reseller that sells the admission ticket is not an authorized reseller..."

The net effect of these provisions in particular would be to strip consumers of control over the tickets they already own—and put it in the hands of ticket vendors, such as Ticketmaster. For example, under these provisions, a typical consumer could no longer choose on her own to resell a ticket to a Blazers game she cannot attend, or donate some of her Timbers tickets to a charity auction—all common and reasonable activities.

We do agree that there is a need to crack down on speculative sales and software used to circumvent access to ticket sales. Greater regulation in these areas could result in a more transparent and fair ticket industry for consumers. But until HB 2794 is refocused on this intent, and does not harm the average consumer in the process, we must withhold our support.