

Oregon State Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

3/4/15

Sent via email to: james.labar@state.or.us

Re: SB 578, E-Posting - NAMIC's Written Testimony in Support

Dear Senator Beyer, Chair; Senator Girod, Vice-Chair; and members of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

Thank you for providing the National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies (NAMIC) an opportunity to submit written testimony to the committee for the March 4, 2015 public hearing. Unfortunately, I will be in another state at a previously scheduled legislative meeting at the time of this hearing, so I will be unavailable to attend. Please accept these written comments in lieu of my testimony at the hearing. This letter need not be formally read into the committee hearing record, but please reference the letter as a submission to the committee at the hearing.

NAMIC is the largest property/casualty insurance trade association in the country, serving regional and local mutual insurance companies on main streets across America as well as many of the country's largest national insurers.

The 1,400 NAMIC member companies serve more than 135 million auto, home and business policyholders and write more than \$196 billion in annual premiums, accounting for 50 percent of the automobile/homeowners market and 31 percent of the business insurance market. NAMIC has 153 members who write property/casualty insurance in the State of Oregon, which represents 46 percent of the insurance marketplace.

Through our advocacy programs we promote public policy solutions that benefit NAMIC companies and the consumers we serve. Our educational programs enable us to become better leaders in our companies and the insurance industry for the benefit of our policyholders.

NAMIC's members are committed to providing their policyholders with what they want and need, i.e. timely, convenient, and cost-effective access to their insurance policy language. SB 578 accomplishes this pro-consumer insurance information exchange and pro-business operations efficiency objective in a balanced and thoughtful manner.

Specifically, the proposed legislation, which is consistent with the national trend in promoting

e-communications in the insurance world, merely allows insurers to post standard insurance policy and endorsements on the insurer's website in lieu of mailing or delivering insurance policy and endorsements to insured. SB 578 facilitates this insurance policy information exchange in a way that strictly maintains the insurance consumer's privacy rights (no specific policyholder information will be posted) and protects the insurance consumer's right to still receive a paper copy of the policy and endorsements.

Since there is no real down-side to this proposed pro-consumer legislation, NAMIC respectfully requests that the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation **VOTE YES on SB 578.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of NAMIC's written testimony. Please feel free to contact me at 303.907.0587 or at crataj@namic.org, if you have any questions pertaining to my written testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian J. Rataj". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Christian J. Rataj, Esq.
NAMIC's Senior Director State Affairs -Western Region