

**Testimony – House Bill 3056**  
**Committee Hearing Thursday, March 5, 2015 – 1:00 PM**  
**Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness**  
**Submitted by Ty Cochrane, Representing the Cemetery Assoc. of Oregon**

Chairman Fagan; Representatives Buehler, Holvey, Nearman, Rayfield, Stark, & McLain

My name is Ty Cochrane and I am testifying today on behalf of the many members of the Cemetery Association of Oregon. For over 30 years I have worked at, and currently manage, Belcrest Memorial Park here in Salem. The company that owns Belcrest owns several other cemeteries here in Oregon, as well as several crematoriums.

Members of the Cemetery Association are concerned about this proposed legislation for multiple reasons. First of all, it assumes that crematoriums in the State pose a danger to members of the public, which is not true. All crematoriums in Oregon are not only licensed by the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board, but they are also licensed by the Dept. of Environmental Quality, which inspects and certifies those crematoriums to be safe. In other words, the concerns that are expressed in this bill already have the oversight of another regulatory agency.

Secondly, this bill asks the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board to be responsible for something that is outside its area of expertise. It is the task of this Board to make sure that crematoriums in Oregon follow the State laws and administrative rules in regards to the disposition of human remains, as well as to perform background checks on individuals who wish to apply for a certificate to operate a crematorium. It is not the responsibility of the Board to determine whether the actual crematorium equipment is operating according to proper DEQ standards.

Thirdly, even if this legislation was needed, it misses the mark in many ways. The only incinerators that it addresses are those licensed by OMCB. There are other incinerators that cremate human remains that are not licensed by OMCB, such as those at Oregon hospitals, tissue banks, and the OHSU whole body donor program. Additionally, animal remains are cremated at veterinary clinics and other pet crematoriums. But there is no reason for concern, because all of these cremation chambers are licensed by the DEQ.

Lastly, if crematoriums really did pose a danger to the public beyond what the DEQ was able to regulate, why have a bill that implies that only children should be protected from this alleged danger? Don't adults deserve to be protected? The reason a crematorium can be housed in a funeral home or at a cemetery, where members of the public, including children, are likely to be present, is because they do not pose a danger to the public.

Madam Chairman and members of the committee, this bill is simply not necessary, due to the fact that its goals, while worthy, are already being met by another State Agency – the Dept. of Environmental Quality. I urge you to vote no on this bill and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ty Cochrane