



Good Afternoon,

My name is Matthew Steimle, I am the Sales Manager for Kennedy Restoration here in Portland Oregon. By way of introduction, Kennedy Restoration is a full service restoration contractor serving the Portland Metro market since 1950. We are a third generation family owned business that focuses on restoration only; we do not do new construction or remodeling.

Kennedy Restoration has purchased a non-traditional franchise called 1-800 Board Up. 1-800 Board Up does not “chase” fires, but works with the fire departments to help the victim and secure the structure if needed, along with other services. **We only respond when called directly by the fire department.** This service hopefully allows the victim time to deal logically instead of being preyed upon emotionally by the fire chasers. We try and educate the victim on what to do or what may happen after the fire is out. Most “chasers” use fear and emotion to get the victim to sign with them. They say things like “Your insurance company sent us”, or “This isn’t going to cost you anything”, or “A friend of yours sent us to help you” and many more. Then they present the victim with a highly inflated invoice for services, ( sometimes for services not even needed) and without regard for any policy limits the customer may have within their insurance policy. Insurance companies cannot stop chasers as they often are not even aware of their policy holder’s loss until a few hours after the fire event.

We take our responsibility very seriously and have become increasingly frustrated on what is happening out there. We therefore fully endorse Senate Bill 574 as it is currently written. Mandating a proper license through the CCB is a positive step towards protecting the consumers currently being taken advantage of by unlicensed predatory entities.

We very much appreciate the opportunity to speak before the Committee and welcome any future chances to do so.

Respectfully,

Matthew Steimle  
Sales Manager  
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