

# Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

HB 3056 – Crematory Operation

## OPPOSITION – SENATE HEARING TESTIMONY

Prepared by Cascade Funeral Directors, Inc.

My name is Randy Tjaden and I own and operate Cascade Funeral Directors, Inc. We are a family owned Oregon business, operating Funeral Service Establishments throughout the Portland metropolitan area as well as the north Willamette Valley. We also operate Oregon's largest cremation facility, Cascade Cremation Center in Tualatin, Oregon. I have reached out to each of you over the past few weeks as I have some significant concerns about House Bill 3056.

I'd like to make it clear that I am not opposed to crematory regulation; in fact, I am very supportive of proper crematory regulation and oversight. I believe that Representative Keny-Guyer had good intentions when she sponsored this Bill and I also believe that she was sincerely trying to support her constituents. However, I do not think she fully understood the potentially threatening affect this Bill could have on an otherwise compliant cremation facility by placing that facility's fate in unqualified hands.

- **UNNECESSARY**

- This Bill is an emotional over-reaction to an unfortunate but isolated incident
- The science behind crematory emissions directly contradicts the emotional testimony of HB 3056
- Crematory operations have not previously been a significant concern in Oregon and our current system is certainly not broken
- Crematorium air emissions are already regulated by Oregon DEQ.

- **ARBITRARY**

- I ask myself, exactly what is it that this Bill is attempting to regulate?
  - If it's air emissions, well, DEQ already has that covered
  - If it's not air emissions, then what is it?
- Determining "that a crematorium presents a danger to the public health and safety," under this bill, asks an unqualified agency, made up of volunteer citizens to determine risk to the public. An improper "determination," based on emotion rather than science, could have a devastating impact on an otherwise compliant crematorium that is necessary in society
- There is no credible evidence that crematory emissions are a "danger to the public health or safety".

- **AUTHORITY IS IMPROPERLY DIRECTED**

- The Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board is a licensing and regulatory agency. They have no knowledge of, or expertise in the science of crematory operation.
- I strongly encourage the committee not to move this bill forward