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**Joint Committee on
Ways and Means**

Sen. Richard Devlin, Senate Co-Chair
Rep. Nancy Nathanson, House Co-Chair

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Sen. Jackie Winters, Senate Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Dan Rayfield, House Co-Vice Chair
Rep. Greg Smith, House Co-Vice Chair

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Re: HB 2356 Relating to debt collection practices

Senator Hansell: “HB 2356 establishes a new program requiring certain debt buyers to hold a license from the Department of Consumer and Business Services. It also adds new categories of unlawful collection practices and expands the director’s rulemaking authority to define dishonest, illegal or unethical practices.

DCBS estimates that there would be approximately 75 entities operating in Oregon that would require licensure and be subject to regulation under the bill. The agency proposes the establishment of a single additional financial examiner position to be responsible for the licensing, complaint investigations, and conducting examinations. This position would be funded by license fees assessed on debt buyers.

This bill is the result of several years of work by the Department of Justice, the Department of Consumer and Business Services, and industry and consumer protection groups. There is no regulation of these entities in Oregon at this time and this bill will provide additional protections for consumers against unscrupulous debt collectors.

The Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee recommends HB 2356 be amended by the –A8 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.”