

Senate Judiciary Committee
900 State Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Grayber, Members of the Committee,

Since 1951, the Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce has been dedicated to helping local businesses grow and thrive in one of the most beloved coastal communities in Oregon. Our organization is 100% membership driven, meaning we rely on our partners in the community to make Lincoln City an ideal place to start a small business, live, and raise a family.

Our chamber proudly represents a broad coalition of businesses, with diverse business models and structures. With that in mind, there are some economic factors that affect all businesses— one of those being insurance rates. When insurance rates rise, local business inevitably takes a hit. In the time of economic anxiety brought on by a global pandemic, this is the last thing we need.

HB 3171 and 3272 pave the way for excessive and frivolous lawsuits, allowing for *two* lawsuits against a single insurance claim. Even when these cases don't go to trial, more litigation means higher costs that often end up hitting the consumers' insurance premiums. While this may be a boon to trial lawyers, it could seriously hit the local consumer that our coastal economy relies upon. The DCBS in Oregon already has rigorous processes in place that ensure thorough oversight of insurance providers. In other states where similar legislation was passed, insurance costs increased between 30% and 70%. During a time when businesses are barely hanging on, we simply cannot afford to take another hit if we hope to keep our local communities sustainable.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3171 and HB 3272.

Thank you,

Lori Arce-Torres
Executive Director
Lincoln City Chamber of Commerce