



Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Elmer and Sosa, and members of the committee,

My name is Caleb Runyan and I am the owner of Pacific Rim Insurance. I work with Oregon consumers and businesses, and on their behalf I urge you to oppose House Bills 3242 and 3243.

The obvious question I would ask you with regards to these bills is: why now? Oregon is coming out of a period of dramatic change and we see our customers still working to adapt to the impacts of pandemic and inflation driven by a tight supply chain. It is hard to think of a worse time to dramatically disrupt our insurance market.

Authorizing a new cause of action will significantly boost litigation over claims. We've seen that in other states and I don't think proponents of these bills would deny that. We know that these lawsuits will come with real costs, negatively impacting premiums and delaying the resolution of claims. We know that our courts are already stretched to the breaking point with all of the cases that got held up during the pandemic. Why would we act now to pile on with a whole other group of lawsuits?

It also doesn't make sense for the Legislature to act when Oregon's courts are examining right now whether bad faith lawsuits are permitted under Oregon law. Better to wait until the courts have ruled before the legislature seeks to change those laws.

Please set aside these bills. They simply do not make sense for Oregon.

Caleb Runyan
Pacific Rim Insurance