

House Committee on Business and Labor
Representative Jeff Barker, Chair

4/22/19

Re: SB 227 (Re-interment of remains)

Dear Chair Barker and members of the committee.

For the record my name is Wally Ordeman and I represent the Oregon Funeral Director's Association (OFDA) as their contract lobbyist. I have also been a funeral service licensee in Oregon for 34 years and operate our family owned funeral home in Albany.

The OFDA enthusiastically endorses SB 227 as a proper remedy for circumstances that may arise from natural disasters. This legislation will provide the tools necessary for cemetery operators to professionally restore dislodged human remains in a dignified manner following mudslides, earthquakes, or any natural occurrences. The OFDA feels very strongly that burial sites are sacred to those who have loved ones interred. SB 227 allows professionals to restore these sacred sites or re-inter remains within the cemetery, while doing no harm to family members or those who have the right to control disposition. All protections for next of kin or those persons with the right to control disposition remain intact.

Many of Oregon's cemeteries sit on properties that are susceptible to natural occurrences. SB 227 will allow funeral and cemetery professionals throughout our state to continue to care for our deceased citizens, even when nature has exerted herself. The OFDA encourages passage of this vital legislation, and it is the pleasure of the OFDA to support the Cemetery Association of Oregon in this effort.

Respectfully,
Wally Ordeman, OFDA Lobbyist

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