



Oregon Consumer League

2727 SE 16th Ave.

Portland, OR 97202

www.oregonconsumerleague.org

May 21, 2019

TO: Senate Rules Committee

RE: Written testimony of Joel Shapiro, Vice President, Oregon Consumer League
in support of SB 113

Chair Burdick and Members of the Senate Rules Committee:

The Oregon Consumer League strongly supports SB 113, which will protect consumers who purchase used cars by providing a remedy when a used a car dealer fails to deliver the car's title to the purchaser.

While that may sound like an unusual situation, given the standard practices in the used car industry, it is all too common an occurrence. Used car dealers often sell a car before they have procured the legal title, or fail to convey the title to the consumer despite promising to do so. Under current law, there is little recourse available to the purchaser to obtain the title, especially when the dealer has gone out of business.

Hiring an attorney to file a law suit against the car dealer is cost prohibitive if the consumer must bear the cost of the attorney's time. Like many other consumer statutes already on the books in Oregon, SB 113 would provide for attorneys fees and costs to be awarded to consumers who prevail in law suits after making a written demand for the vehicle's title. If the dealer has gone out of business, SB 113 would allow consumers to receive their attorney fees in obtaining the title from the dealer's bond. SB 113 is an important step forward in protecting the rights of low-income consumers who purchase used cars from a dealer.

The Oregon Consumer League asks that you vote in favor of SB 113.