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Testimony of Arthur Towers, OTLA Political Director
In Support of SB 813-A
Before the Civil Justice Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee
May 17, 2021

Chair Power, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 813-A. The bill clarifies a law passed in the first Special Session of 2020 (HB 4212) which extended timelines for litigation during the pandemic.

A judge interpreted the extension of timelines to commence with the effective date of the law (June 30, 2020) – but the intent was to commence the extension of timelines with the declaration of the Covid-19 state of emergency (March 8, 2020).

The intent of HB 4212 was to protect individuals, small businesses, and others from the expiration of certain time limitations during the COVID-19 emergency period. I would also draw your attention to the testimony submitted by the Oregon Judicial Department for the Senate Committee hearing on this bill. The OJD testimony outlines the process led by Chief Justice Walters that helped get the law passed in special session.

We urge the passage of SB 813-A.