

**Testimony Submitted by
Chris Coughlin, Policy Director
Oregon Consumer Justice
To the Joint Committee on Transportation**

April 27, 2023

Regarding: Support for HB 3556 with the -2 amendment

Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain, Co-Vice-Chairs Boquist and Boshart-Davis, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Oregon Consumer Justice in support of HB 3556 with the -2 amendment.

Oregon Consumer Justice (OCJ) organizes, advocates, and supports litigation to advance a justice movement that puts people first, ensuring all have the freedom to thrive and equitably share in our abundance of resources. For too long, flawed systems and economic policies that favor profits over people have stood in the way of this reality, with communities of color most often experiencing the most significant harm. Strengthened through responsive and reciprocal community relationships, OCJ is building a future where financial and business transactions can be relied upon as safe and where all Oregonians know and have recourse to exercise their consumer rights.

Oregon Consumer Justices urges your support of House Bill 3556 with the Dash 2 amendment, which provides a balanced approach to improving the current law with respect to the towing of abandoned RV vehicles. The Dash 2 amendments take into account:

- The critically important need for adequate notice and due process protections to ensure that RVs are not towed if they are being used as shelter and are not public safety hazards;
- The need to assist local governments with expedited removal of abandoned RVs that are destroyed or are hazards; *and*
- The need for assistance with the expense of dismantling RVs that are abandoned.

While more and more people are living in RVs for shelter because of our extreme housing crisis, there has been a corresponding increase in abandoned RVs across the state. This surge in abandoned RVs is partially related to the cost of dismantling old and dilapidated RVs, with some people abandoning their vehicles and walking away, rather than pay the cost to responsibly dismantle. This increase has created problems for local governments and towing companies who need to find a way to quickly dispose of abandoned property.

Oregon Consumer Justice is supporting the Dash 2 amendment as it provides a balanced approach. This bill will help protect innocent people from losing their home, which might be their only safe haven, offer storage for precious belongings, documents, or medications, and provide life-saving protection from the elements. At the same time, this bill helps local jurisdictions to expeditiously remove abandoned vehicles that create a hazard or have been destroyed, and provides a fund to offset the costs associated with dismantling.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to Oregon's communities.