

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Strongly Oppose SB 174

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barry Alley, and I strongly oppose Senate Bill 174. As part of the Alley Insurance Agency team, I work to provide Oregonians with the best coverage at the lowest rates. This bill would make it harder to do that, increasing costs for consumers and small businesses at a time they can least afford it.

Oregonians are already struggling with rising costs for necessities like food, housing, and utilities. SB 174 would only make things worse. A study by Milliman estimates it could increase insurance premiums by 7% to 16%, costing Oregonians up to \$1.4 billion. In other states, similar policies led to skyrocketing premiums—California saw bodily injury insurance costs jump by up to 53%, and Washington experienced a 20% increase in property insurance losses.

Oregon already has strong consumer protections. The Department of Consumer and Business Services can already investigate claims, order payouts, and penalize bad actors. SB 174 doesn't improve consumer protections—it expands litigation, raising costs for insurers and consumers alike. Worse, it will strain Oregon's already-overburdened courts, delaying resolutions for policyholders.

This bill would also hurt key state priorities. Higher insurance costs will make it harder to build affordable housing, drive up rents, and push housing providers to sell. Childcare providers—already struggling—could see their costs rise, reducing access for families. Renewable energy projects, which depend on affordable insurance for financing, may become unviable.

With Oregonians already feeling the squeeze of rising costs, now is not the time to pass legislation that will drive insurance rates even higher. I urge you to reject SB 174.

Sincerely,

Barry Alley

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