



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

March 5, 2025

Senate Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for SB 174

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work at DevNW, an affordable housing development and asset-building agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Clackamas Counties. We embark on comprehensive community development throughout our seven-county service area through services aimed at increasing financial stability for individuals and families as well as through economic and housing development.

DevNW supports SB 174, which will strengthen consumer protections in Oregon's insurance industry.

DevNW supports low and moderate income families in achieving financial stability and building assets, most notably through homeownership. Our clients are resilient, typically working one or more jobs to put food on the table, manage debt and save for their future, all while costs around them are rising—from childcare, to groceries to insurance. Additionally, our team works with young adults who have experienced homelessness and are now able to gain housing stability and build life skills as well as homeowners facing a crisis with their mortgage. The wide breadth of clients we serve, who are putting in the hard work, demonstrate the need for robust consumer protections in Oregon to correct harmful, fraudulent or unethical insurance practices.

Currently, Oregon's insurance industry is the only major industry not covered by Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act (UTPA). The insurance industry should be held to the same standards of accountability and transparency as other industries.

DevNW is one of the primary providers of foreclosure avoidance counseling in Oregon, dating back to the 2008 crisis. We've seen firsthand the negative impact of the banking industry not included under the UTPA prior to 2010, with misleading and deceptive practices that ripped generational wealth and housing stability from thousands of Oregon families. After inclusion, Oregonians had increased protections and avenues for recourse for bad actors. We believe this should be the case across all industries.

We believe that all Oregonians deserve to operate in a fair and equitable marketplace, where consumers can trust what they are told and know protections are in place. SB 174 would

devNW.org



212 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97477

P.O. Box 790
Corvallis, OR 97339

528 Cottage Street NE, Suite 1C
Salem, OR 97301

421 High Street, Suite 110
Oregon City, OR 97045

DevNW

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increase consumer trust and confidence in their insurance purchases, an industry that almost every Oregonian must interact with throughout their lives.

We thank you for your work to increase consumer protections in Oregon and urge your support of SB 174, to bring the insurance industry under the UTPA.

Sincerely,



Karen Saxe
Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships
DevNW

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CHARTERED MEMBER

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Springfield, OR 97477

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Corvallis, OR 97339

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421 High Street, Suite 110
Oregon City, OR 97045