



Senate Bill 872 Testimony

Before the House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Good afternoon, Chair Sosa, Vice-Chairs Chaichi and Osborne and Members of the Committee.

For the record, my name is Chad Dresselhaus and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board (OMCB).

Senate Bill 872 is an extremely important bill that is the result of our agency experiencing a frustrating and devastating situation, which began in March of 2016 and wasn't fully resolved until November of 2023.

In March of 2016, our agency revoked the operating license of a cemetery located in Klamath Falls.

However, although we revoked the cemetery's license, our agency did not have the appropriate disciplinary authority to issue a suspension or cease and desist order, so we had no other legal option but to file the first (in the State's history) involuntary bankruptcy.

While new owners were able to finally purchase the cemetery property in 2022, the involuntary bankruptcy wasn't finalized until November 13, 2023, so the entire revocation process took almost 8 years, cost our agency hundreds of thousands of dollars, and most importantly, negatively impacted countless families located in Klamath Falls and beyond.

With SB 872 becoming law, our agency will have the necessary disciplinary action authority to prevent consumer harm and communities from being negatively impacted by licensees who egregiously violate Oregon law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.