



March 10, 2021

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 3171 and HB 3272

House Business and Labor Committee

Dear Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

As Chief Executive Officer of Stratton Insurance Services, Inc., which does business in The Dalles, Hermiston, Pendleton and La Grande, Oregon offices, we wish to voice our opposition to HB 3171 and sections 4 and 6 of HB 3272.

We have been in the insurance business for 37 years now. We care deeply about our insurance clients. We believe the second lawsuits contained in these bills would increase costs for them by leading to inflated settlement demands, encouraging more lawsuits, clogging the court system, and there would be more fraud. The increase in underlying costs related to insurance claims has been shown in other states which have adopted this kind of legislation.

We also object to Section 6 in HB 3272, which places new duties on insurance agents. Agents work hard to help our clients across the state. Agents are well regulated in ORS 744.052 to 744.089. The Commissioner can force us to close our doors if we violate those standards – and does! As for the other aspects of HB 3272, we leave that to the insurance companies to negotiate those sections.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Stratton
Thank you for your consideration

Michael C. Stratton
Chief Executive Officer