PRESS RELEASE

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House Votes to Protect Internet Privacy

SALEM – The Oregon House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly today to ensure that the privacy of consumers online is protected and enforceable.

House Bill 2090 makes it an unlawful trade practice, enforceable by the Attorney General, if a company or a person uses, discloses, collects, maintains, deletes or disposes of consumer information in a way that's not in accordance with the company's stated privacy policy. In short, the bill says that online companies have to actually abide by their own rules.

The bill was co-chief sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland) and Rep. John Huffman (R-The Dalles).

"More and more Oregonians pass personal information to businesses and individuals online and, in many cases, the only assurance they have that their information is going to be properly used and disposed of is a privacy policy," Rep. Williamson said. "House Bill 2090 ensures that those privacy policies are more than just words written on a website – this bill holds individuals and businesses accountable for upholding the commitments they have made to the people they are engaging with online."

Rep. Huffman said it is important for Oregonians to know that their information is being protected.

"We are committed to ensuring the privacy and personal information of Oregonians is protected," Rep. Huffman said. "When it is not, Oregonians deserve to have recourse to hold those who broke their commitments accountable. House Bill 2090 provides just that."

The bill, which passed the House 55-3, now moves to the Oregon Senate for consideration.

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