



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Victims of fires and floods win consumer protections in Senate vote

SB 1571 allows consumers to rescind contracts with fire-chasing restoration companies

SALEM – This morning the Oregon Senate approved legislation to give victims of fires, floods, and other disasters more protection from companies who offer to restore destroyed items. Senate Bill 1571A passed the Senate with a vote of 30-0.

Senate Bill 1571A gives restoration service customers a five day period in which they can rescind a contract with a restoration company after a disaster. Additionally, the restoration company must notify the customer of their right to rescind the contract. These protections will help put an end to predatory fire-chasing practices used by certain companies.

“In the immediate aftermath of a traumatic event, these companies get victims to sign blank check contracts that can result in exorbitantly high bills for services they may not ultimately need,” said Senator Chip Shields (D-Portland). “This will be an important protection for folks struggling to put their lives back together.”

Last summer a five alarm fire erupted in Northeast Portland, and restoration companies immediately pursued victims of the fire looking for business. A Senate committee heard testimony from these Oregonians who indicated that representatives of these companies made them sign contracts just hours after the fire had started.

“In their moment of crisis, victims of fires and floods need our support to stay safe and try to recover,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “Let’s put an end to predatory business practices that exploit these victims.”

Senate Bill 1571A will now head over to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration.

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