



## Oregon Senate Republican Office

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# NEWS RELEASE

February 25, 2014

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### **House sends anti-troll legislation to Governor**

Salem, OR - The Oregon House of Representatives unanimously adopted Senate Bill 1540 on Monday, sending to the Governor a bill that will make the practice of extorting small businesses through "patent trolling" more difficult. Senate Bill 1540 is another piece of the Senate Republican legislative agenda.

"This bill has been met with universal support, and I'm pleased that it will soon be law with the Governor's approval," said Senator Jackie Winters (R-Salem), who sponsored the legislation. "Small businesses will have a little more protection from those who would try to take advantage of them. This is an aggressive practice that we need to stop!"

Patent trolls are companies that purchase patents and intimidate thousands of small businesses and individuals with the threat of a lawsuit. The aim is to extort cash from companies or individuals in order to make the threat of litigation go away.

Although some businesses ignore such shakedowns, others choose to pay up because it is cheaper than hiring an attorney to evaluate the claim. This burden on our small businesses creates an unnecessary drag on Oregon's economy and discourages job creation.

Senate Bill 1540 would make patent trolling a violation of the Oregon trade law. The bill would also allow those who have been targeted by a patent troll to sue for attorneys' fees.

Winters is a retired small business owner and has served in the state legislature since 1998, when she was elected to the House of Representatives. She was elected to the Senate in 2002.

Jackie has lived in Salem for 43 years.

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