



State of Wisconsin / OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

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Honorable Herb Kohl
US Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-4904

Dear Senator Kohl:

I write to urge you to support the amendment offered by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) to the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010, S. 3217 ("RAFSA"). This amendment will preserve effective supervision of the insurance industry from federal preemption.

The RAFSA creates an Office of National Insurance ("ONI") with excessive powers to preempt state oversight of the insurance industry. If these provisions are enacted Wisconsin consumers will be exposed to losing long standing protection under state law, and access to responsive state agencies, based on the decisions of an obscure federal office.

Senator Merkley's amendment scales back the ONI powers to those that are necessary to its purpose, which is providing a federal resource for insurance industry information and a federal voice in international trade issues affecting the insurance industry. Importantly the amendment configures the ONI's powers so as to not enable deregulation of the insurance industry through the back door of federal preemption. I urge you to support the amendment

Sincerely,

Sean Dilweg

Commissioner