

**Sen Whitsett**

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**From:** Doug Bright [dflea1@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 06, 2011 10:26 PM  
**To:** Sen Whitsett  
**Subject:** Road Fund Authorization, Funding for Schools

Dear Senator Whitsett,

I am strongly opposed to any decision that would allow the spending of restricted road dollars for solving the jail funding problem. It is folly to believe that this proposed temporary exception to the law will lead to a solution for the long term funding of law enforcement. Klamath County, as is a number of other counties in Oregon, is strongly opposed to any addition taxes for any reason. Changing the law to allow for the spending of restricted road dollars will let the tax payers off the hook and they will at the end of the temporary exception expect that the road funds will bail them out the next time around. All you have to do is look at the results of the temporary authority that was given to Douglas and Lane Counties. Did they go out and approve a tax levy to fund law enforcement. No, instead they are back asking for additional authority along with Klamath and several other counties. My concern is that whether it's the proposal to exchange dollars with the city if declared legal, which is nothing more than money laundering, or the temporary authorization to use road dollars will quickly starts the counties down a slippery slope. The end result is road dollars will be spent at a faster rate than they would have been otherwise and we will rapidly reach that day where there is no dollars for law enforcement or for roads. Allowing the taking of the easy way out is what's wrong in America. What needs to happen is the tax payers must be told that if you want something you are going to have to pay for it, if not, you are going to have to live without it. Just for the record I am willing to pay more taxes so that the all of the pods in the jail are open.

My second concern is what appears to be a very dismal plan for the funding of schools. We continually hear that schools are a priority but we as a State aren't walking the talk. I am very thankful that my kids are out of school so I don't have to worry about their education. I am however, concern for those that are in school today some of which are my grand kids. By continuously reducing available funds which result in further cuts we are simply moving education in the wrong direction. Oregon has never did a good job of supporting the funding higher education. As a result the tuition rates are very high which has a negative effect on those that are wanting to go on to college. This was a true forty years ago as it is today. I grew up in Northeastern Oregon and I found it was cheaper for me to go to the University of Idaho and pay out of state tuition than it was to go to Oregon State.

My last concern is the requirement that gasoline have a blend of alcohol. It makes perfect sense during period of the year where it is done to help air quality issues but the rest of the year is does not. At one time this was done to help promote biofuels but the making of alcohol from grains such as corn and maze is a loser. The making of alcohol from grains produces only 1.5 units of energy output per unit of energy input. It also is driving up the price of foods made from grain. If the State of Oregon is underwriting biofuel production with tax breaks it needs to stop. If biofuels can't make it without tax breaks then they need to go out of business.

I would like to thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Bright  
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