

March 23, 2011

To: Chair, Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Subject: Testimony, SB189

As a citizen of Klamath County I would like to enter the following remarks into the record concerning the proposed bill. My remarks are as follows:

In section 2 it states: This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect on its passage.

From my perspective there is no emergency. The issue is there is a lack of available funding for law enforcement in the county budget and there is an unwillingness of the citizens of Klamath County to pass a tax levy to provide the additional funding for law enforcement. I believe it is folly to believe that this proposed temporary exception to the current law will lead to a solution for the long term funding of law enforcement. Klamath County tax payers, as are a number of tax payers in other counties in Oregon, are strongly opposed to any addition taxes for any reason. If this law is passed it will provide the easy way out and at the end of the temporary exception the tax payers will once again be asking for an additional exception for another period of time. 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 the temporary authorization to use road dollars will quickly start Klamath County 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 when there are 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 law enforcement is adequately funded.

Thank you for the opportunity to enter my testimony into the record.

Respectfully,

/s/ Douglas G. Bright

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