



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 3097 Task Force on Feasibility of DPSST Facility at Mt. Hood Community College
Co-Chief Sponsors: Rep. Gorsek and Rep. Matthews

House Committee on Judiciary
Public Hearing March 20, 2013
1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 343

Good afternoon Chair Barker and Members of the Committee. For the record, I'm Chris Gorsek, State Representative for House District 49, which includes the cities of Troutdale, Wood Village, Fairview and Gresham.

I'm glad to be here this morning to speak in support of House Bill 3097 which would create a task force to study the feasibility of establishing a law enforcement training facility at Mt. Hood Community College.

There is a need for this facility in my community. The law enforcement agencies in East County work together quite frequently, especially through the East County Gang Task Force, and have little in common with the Portland Police Bureau, which has the only law enforcement training facility in Multnomah County. As a former Portland police officer, I can tell you just how different we do things in East County. We need a facility of our own.

Mt. Hood is an ideal setting for this facility. Its location is easily accessed by freeway and local roads and is near the Troutdale Airport which has been considered by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office as a potential location for a driving course. Mt. Hood also has available classrooms for use by law enforcement agencies and the necessary space to build an indoor range.

As a professor of criminal justice at Mt. Hood, I can tell you that the students in our criminal justice program would also benefit from this partnership. It would allow them to interact with local law enforcement and have access to state of the art training equipment and materials.

This task force would allow us to identify the ideal configuration for this facility, as well as the funding sources that would be needed.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

