

26 March 2013

The Honorable Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
331 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97310

Re: Oppose House Bill 2548

Dear Chair Barker:

As a former Seattle Police Department Lieutenant, I witnessed firsthand some of the dangers that can arise with a commercial bail system.

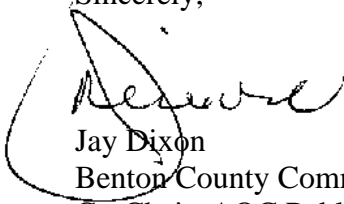
For example, I saw bail bondsmen form inappropriate relationships with police officers, wherein on-duty officers would apprehend bail jumpers, at the direction of a bondsman, in order that the bondsman not suffer a financial loss. Officers received various gratuities in exchange.

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) is opposed to HB 2548 because of the many judicial system risks such a bail system would bring. The for-profit bail industry has a history of unsafe tactics used to retrieve offenders, corruption, and compromising the integrity of the judicial system.

Oregon has built a strong reputation for training public safety officers and reducing recidivism through effective community supervision programs. Compromising that with a for-profit system is not the answer to making our communities safer.

Thank you very much for allowing me to submit this written testimony to you for consideration.

Sincerely,



Jay Dixon
Benton County Commissioner
Co-Chair, AOC Public Safety Committee