



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 3275

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Public Hearing April 1, 2013
8:00 a.m., Hearing Room D

Good morning Chair Dembrow 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 3275 which will create a task force to study and establish a plan for prioritizing and funding deferred maintenance projects for community colleges.

The facilities at many of our community colleges are degrading rapidly due to a lack of funding. Our students are going to school in buildings that are literally falling apart. At Mt. Hood Community College where I teach, I know of numerous maintenance projects that have been deferred for years and this is not a problem confined to one or two campuses, but affects campuses across the state.

While some schools are able to pass levies that give them the ability to fund these projects, many of our schools are in communities that do not have the same ability due to the economic hardships they face.

This task force would help create a plan that would not only identify funding for these deferred maintenance projects, but prioritize them based on need.

If we want our students to get the education they deserve, we need to provide them with facilities to do so.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

