



**OREGON STATE  
FRATERNAL ORDER of POLICE**

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**Rod Edwards**  
President

April, 10, 2013

Senator Chip Shields  
Oregon Senate Dist #22

Mr. Senator,

Let me introduce myself. I am the President of the Oregon State Fraternal Order of Police. My Organization represents Police Officers throughout the State of Oregon. I am also the local President of the Portland Lodge that represents Officers from over 20 agencies in the NW corner of the State. The Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) is the largest Police Association in the Nation with over 328,000 members. Many of my members are PPB Officers but I am not. One of the main purposes of the FOP is to fight to protect the rights of Public Safety Officers.

I just learned about your support for SB 747 concerning eliminating "Binding Arbitration" for the Portland Police Bureau's Police Association Members. This is of great concern to those of us in the FOP, not just locally but nationally.

SB 747 is a terrible Bill to introduce and needs to be removed from consideration. The PPB Association has contractual rights that the City has agreed to honor. These rights help protect those that protect you. Officers are receiving department training and do their best to make snap decisions that may affect the lives of others and their own. We as police officers do this on a daily basis. We don't ask the citizens for anything in return except to honor our rights as both citizens and public safety officers.

I would agree that use of force on citizens needs to be monitored. I believe that PPB, City Government and Federal Oversight are doing that. It is when public pressure is inserted on the City's Administrators and Police Chief that poor administrative decisions are made. The Chief is an appointed position and the Major is elected. Both worry about their jobs. So, when the Chief is forced to make poor decisions, the Arbitrators are also obligated to correct it.

The PPB Association needs to maintain their right to appeal these decisions to an Arbitrator. I would also argue that all police officers, exempt management included, need to maintain these rights to protect their careers from public pressure and Public Officials that don't have the integrity to do the right thing.

For the above reasons and more, the Fraternal Order of Police will do everything in our power to defeat this Bill. We are respectfully requesting that you end your support for this Bill and instead actively fight to support the rights of Police Officers. I am available for contact and more than willing to assist you in future endeavors as they relate to Public Safety matters.

Respectfully,

*Rod Edwards*

Rod Edwards  
President, Oregon State FOP