



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 3316

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek

House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development
Public Hearing April 15, 2013
3:00 p.m., Hearing Room E

Good afternoon Chair Read 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 today in support of House Bill 3316. I have been working hard to improve public transit for years as both an advocate and an elected official.

I'd like to take a moment and allay some concerns that have been brought to me around this bill. This bill is not in response to the current labor negotiations or any recent controversy. Nor is it an attack on transit or any current members of the TriMet Board. This bill has one goal and one goal only; creating a board that is more responsive to TriMet riders by increasing local control.

For many of us, going to work, the grocery store, and the doctor's office is a matter of getting in the car and driving there. However, there are many people in my district whose only option for transportation, is public transit and what might take us 15-20 minutes, can take a transit rider two or three times that amount.

During our in district day on March 29, I met with the executive directors from the Rockwood Building in my district. Their organizations provide medical care, Head Start, Meals on Wheels and other services to people with low-incomes and seniors. Many of these people rely on public transit and in East Multnomah County transit services can be few and far between.

I believe that the current method of appointments to the TriMet Board creates a board that is too insulated from the people they serve. House Bill 3316 is designed to help fix this problem. By providing appointing authority to local governments, we give riders more access to the people making decisions that affect their daily lives.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

