



# POLK COUNTY

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MEASURE: SB 583  
EXHIBIT: 8  
SENATE BUSINESS & TRANSPORTATION  
DATE: 4-2-13 PAGES: 2  
SUBMITTED BY: Bob Wolfe

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Sheriff Bob Wolfe**

Criminal Division  
Civil Division  
Marine Patrol Division  
Dog Control  
Emergency Management

March 28, 2013

The Honorable Lee Beyer  
Chair, Senate Business and Transportation Committee  
Capitol Building  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Public Hearing on Senate Bill 583

Dear Chair Beyer and members of the Committee:

Law Enforcement Agencies, as well as other public safety responders around the state are continually challenged by the rising cost of petroleum products and decreasing budgets. Yet the demand for vehicles to provide for response and long periods of time of engine operation directly correlates to the cost of fuel. This then begins the process of looking for alternate fuel sources to reduce operational cost.

While the mechanics of this process are complex, I am here today to provide you some direct testimony regarding the use of LNG fuel in law enforcement vehicles. Polk County Sheriff's Office is the first law enforcement agency in the state of Oregon to begin the conversion to LNG, for two reasons. First, reduction in cost of operations to address reduced funding at the local level. Second, cleaner burning fuel alternative which provides for a better environmental footprint.

My agency has been working with a local vendor and conducted testing of several vehicles to address the performance needs of a police vehicle. We were very surprised and pleased with the performance factors of the vehicles, including the availability of a back-up fuel system as each vehicle still carries regular gasoline. The system we have installed utilizes gasoline to start the vehicle and then switches to LNG after obtaining an operating temperature of 110 degrees. However, the operator can manually switch from LNG to gasoline at anytime, or if they run out of LNG due to fueling station limitations.

I would support the passage of SB 583 to assist government agencies with the cost in making the alternate fuel conversions. For LNG conversions our cost is approximately \$6,000 per vehicle. By our calculations, which are specific to our agency only, we anticipate the cost of conversion will take us approximately three (3) years before we obtain the full benefit of cost reduction.

With the availability of public money to off set the conversion cost through SB 583 and therefore utilize the cost savings to repay the state, you are providing a method to allow alternate fuel sources and helping to protect the valuable resources of the state of Oregon.

I support the passage of SB 583, it's good for Oregon. Thank You.

Submitted by:  
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