

Chairperson Garrett and committee members

Re: HB 3453

My name is Harold Haugen. I am a retired Josephine County Commissioner of 23 years. Past President of the Association of Oregon Counties, and a former member of the Criminal Justice Commission, 1999, appointed by then Governor Kitzhaber and re appointed by Governor Kulongoski.

My purpose in coming before you this afternoon is to urge you to not support HB3453, for the following reasons:

1. I believe the Josephine County Commissioners have not utilized fully the revenue potential from their County forestland. They historically have sold approximately three (3) million board feet a year from their 30,000 acres of timber land. The guess currently is they have well over 100,000 million board feet. This guess is without an inventory for several years. It was recommended the County Commissioners increase their annual cut this year to six (6) million board feet and dedicate the revenue after expenses to fund the Sheriff's office for patrol or Jail. Commissioner Walker who is in attendance today may be able to give you some of the exact financial figures on their current timber revenue for this year. It is my understanding they sold approximately 3.9 million board feet.
2. There are citizens who have formed a group and are working on the long term financial solution. I believe they have sent a letter indicating who they are and some of the solutions they are working on.
3. A positive thing has happened due to this financial situation and that is that neighbors have gotten together and formed neighborhood watch groups. These are people who have not really talked with each other however, this issue has brought

4. them together and they keep an eye on who comes and goes in their neighborhood.
5. I believe the State of Oregon has fallen short in accepting their responsibility in funding one of their programs. This is the office of the District Attorney. They have not provided any funding for the prosecution of crimes in Josephine County for several years. Yet this office is a State agency. When the District Attorney enters the Courtroom to try an case they open their statement as follows "ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF OREGON" and there is no mention of Josephine County. The State of Oregon pays the salary of the District Attorney across the state. I believe this bill is being used to take the burden away from the State and shift it to the local workers. The State knows there is a real cost if they should have to fund the District Attorney offices across the State. However, the State has no trouble in funding Indigent Defense hundreds of millions dollars so those folks who have committed a crime and have no financial means are represented in court. The immediate fix would be for the Legislature in this session to provide funding for those Counties who are in financial stress. In Josephine County I believe \$1 million dollars would provide the kind of prosecution needed.
6. Another action by the Legislature this session would be to provide funding through the Oregon State Police to contract with the Sheriff's Department for patrol services in the County. The Sheriff's Department provides patrol on local roads as well as State highways. There are laid-off deputies that could return to work immediately, and would not need the required year plus of certification before they could begin patrolling. Also, the State of Oregon would gain the revenue they have lost due to the lack of patrol services in Josephine County and the other Counties who have laid off patrol deputies.

7. Finally, I do not believe the Josephine County Commissioner can approve an income tax in Josephine County. This is required under section 7(2). Josephine County is a home rule County and under Section 29, prohibits the Commissioners from passing any business or personal income tax and any ordinance passed could be subject to an election.
8. The implementation of this bill will take much longer than the two suggestion mentioned above.

I would therefore ask that you not approve this bill and let the citizens of Josephine County work this out, which they are capable of doing. Between the above suggestions the public safety crisis could be handled immediately and give the community and the County Commissioners some breathing room to resolve the long term funding.

Thank you for your time

Harold Haugen

