



## ALEX CUYLER

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Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
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DATE: March 19, 2013  
TO: Representative Chris Garrett, Chair, House Committee on Rules  
RE: SB 496, relating to patrolling by county law enforcement officials

Chairman Garrett:

On behalf of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, I asked for the development of SB 496 and testified in support of this measure as it made its way through the Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development.

Lane County was pleased to see it pass the Senate on a unanimous vote last week.

We ask that you schedule this measure for a hearing in your House Rules Committee, preferably prior to April 5, as I will be travelling to Washington DC that next week for Lane County business.

SB 496 involves an exceedingly important tool for certain Oregon counties, first developed with the passage of SB 808 during the 2007 session. It is the ability for now seven counties in Oregon to transfer money in their Road Fund such that is available for Sheriff's patrol services.

The transferred dollars have their origins in revenues generated from timber harvests (and more lately, the federal Secure Rural Schools Act) on United States National Forest lands. That function goes all the way back to 1905 when the National Forests were first established by Congress. A revenue share was established with counties at the rate of 25% of actual harvest, with "the State or Territorial legislature may prescribe for the benefit of the public schools and public roads of the county or counties in which such national forest is situated..".

The language in this bill was requested by Lane County in order to avoid future conflicts during our budget adoption process and was vetted through the County Counsel's of the other six counties. We believe this language is in line with the legislative intent surrounding this issue since it was first initiated in 2007. That is, recognition that a Sheriff Deputy, patrolling the roads of a county, has a number of related services supporting him or her, and those expenses are part and parcel of the patrol service. Dispatch is but one example of a service that is integral to patrolling. It literally provides a lifeline to other police agencies and officers and is utilized constantly by those on patrol. This bill, if passed, declares it appropriate that some of the transferred dollars may be utilized to pay for dispatch (see section 1, 4B).

Thank you for considering this measure. -- AC