



## ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: February 28, 2013  
TO: Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development  
RE: SB 496, relating to patrolling by county law enforcement officials

Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has reviewed SB 496 and is in support of this measure. We ask that after today's hearing you schedule a works session for the measure and pass it out to the floor of the Senate with a DO PASS recommendation.

This measure clarifies one aspect of an exceedingly important tool for certain Oregon counties. That tool 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..".

In 2007, SB 808 was passed and allowed Lane and Douglas to utilize the public roads dollars for Sheriff's patrols given what was expected at the time as the elimination of the Secure Rural Schools Act. With that Act now truly sunset, these transfers remain an important tool for the seven counties that have such authority (as a result of HB 4177, 2012).

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).

This bill represents good public policy, and Lane County urges your support.