



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: March 8, 2013
TO: House Committee on Business and Labor
RE: HB 2885, relating to license fee moneys collected by the OLCC

Chair Doherty and members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is in support of HB 2885 and thanks you for holding a hearing on this bill. We offer the following input and hope the Committee will continue to work on developing this bill such that it is ready for a work session.

- We support the concept of a surcharge on OLCC licenses for the purposes of public safety, but wonder if the concept that the dollars so raised and distributed should be tied to the location of the license holder. Lane County would prefer a more traditional distribution methodology that provides a percent-based split. We believe that would be more effective in terms of ensuring the outcome of a comprehensive, region-wide approach to public safety.
- We are certainly in favor of earmarking these dollars for providing public safety services. If the Committee is interested in more of a nexus between the source of the dollars and the public services provided, there are a myriad of alcohol related public safety issues that would benefit from additional investment. These include liquor related prosecution, DUII related patrolling, underage drinking prevention, and sobering services, to name just a few.

Lane County has experienced a significant decline in its ability to provide an adequate public safety structure due to the loss of federal forest revenues especially over the past five years. Our Board just passed an Order placing a 5 year local option levy onto the May, 2013 ballot for the purpose of providing funding for jail beds and critical youth services. The levy has no funding for Sheriff patrol, nor for treatment services. While we are developing an additional plan for reconstructing those services, a bill such as HB 2885 would provide resources that could well serve to bolster both patrol and treatment.

We hope you will encourage Committee staff to continue to work on improving this measure.