



**To: Members of the Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Public Safety**

**From: Chief Ed Boyd, Albany Police Department
Chief Eric Bush, Prineville Police Department
Chief Brian Harvey, LaGrande Police Department
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police**

Date: March 14, 2013

**Re: Support for the Oregon State Police Budget
HB 5038, Oregon State Police Budget**

Co-Chairs Winters and Williamson and members of the Committee,

Good afternoon, we are here today on behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police to express our support for meaningful funding of Oregon State Police budget.

As you know, the public safety system in Oregon requires a careful balance of several interdependent components. Oregon is unique among states throughout the nation because of the nature of the close cooperation we enjoy between city, county and state law enforcement agencies. Compared to other states, Oregon is significantly below the national average in terms of officers per thousand (In 2008, Oregon ranked 50th for sworn officer rates per 1,000 population). As a result, police departments across jurisdictions and at different levels of government work in interagency teams and in close cooperation in order to accomplish the critical work of public safety. The work of the Oregon State Police includes a number of programs and teams that we consider "system critical" in order for the criminal justice system in Oregon to properly function. As a partner, we want to thank the leadership of OSP for working strategically and collaboratively with city and county law enforcement agencies throughout the state to insure that resources are strategically employed to fit community needs.

For local communities around the state (and particularly in small jurisdictions), the Oregon State Police provides a critical safety net of response capability. The Oregon State Police is able to respond quickly and effectively to a wide range of threats with resources that most jurisdictions cannot provide (SWAT, Detectives, Arson Team, Bomb Squad, Drug Enforcement and Mobile Response Teams). In a growing number of areas around the state, OSP troopers work side by side city police officers and county sheriff's deputies in distressed jurisdictions where little to no policing

resources are available. For officer safety where backup isn't readily available and for communities with strained law enforcement resources, trooper presence is essential.

In addition to critical incident response and the important network of troopers who provide law enforcement presence throughout Oregon, the Oregon State Police manage a number of programs that are important to every police agency and community in the state. These include Forensic Services, the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS), the Office of the Medical Examiner and the ID Services Bureau.

As you work as a committee to make difficult decisions about how to appropriate limited resources within the public safety system, we hope you will prioritize the Oregon State Police budget by funding it at a current service level that includes "roll up costs". In past sessions, across the board unspecified cuts have weakened OSP's ability to function as an effective agency and have resulted in the elimination of vacancies for positions that should be filled in order to meet vital policing needs around the state.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Oregon. We know that you have a difficult job and we know you have the very best of our state in mind as you perform your work.

Thank you!