

CHRIS GORSEK
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 49



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2955

Chief Sponsor: Rep. Gorsek

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency
Public Hearing March 19, 2013
1:00 p.m., Hearing Room D

Good afternoon Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee. For the record, I'm Chris Gorsek, State Representative for House District 49, which includes the cities of Troutdale, Wood Village, Fairview and Gresham.

I'm glad to be here this afternoon to speak in support of House Bill 2955 which will help make certain that we are taking the steps needed to ensure that the taxpayer's money is being spent in a responsible manner by government agencies.

In 2009 legislation was passed to increase accountability for taxpayer's money. A key piece of this legislation was requiring most public employers to complete a feasibility study when they intend to contract out services over \$250,000 dollars. After completing the study, if it showed that it was less expensive to provide the service using in-house personnel, the work would not be contracted out.

However, there are continuing instances where this legislation is not being followed and no enforcement mechanism exists to compel agencies who do not comply with the legislation to do so. For instance, the City of Wilsonville chose to contract out wastewater treatment services without completing the legally required feasibility study. These services could have been done in-house for less money, but there was no course of action available even though they had ignored the law.

Our agencies do important work and they do it well, but taxpayer funded agencies have a responsibility to ensure that their funds are spent wisely. House Bill 2955 will help ensure this by creating the enforcement mechanism needed to guarantee that legally required feasibility studies are completed.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

