

From the Desk of
Rep. Margaret Doherty

Margaret Doherty



Service Employees International Union, Local 503, OPEU

VOTE YES ON HB 2973

End the Failed Highway 219 Maintenance Pilot Project

After the 2009 Jobs and Transportation Act required ODOT to undertake a 6-year pilot project contracting out work that had been done by its own maintenance crews, the agency initiated the Highway 219 maintenance pilot project in December 2010.

Based on ODOT reports in May 2011 and February 2013 the project has cost taxpayers over \$1.5 million to date.

Why? ODOT's average annual cost to maintain the stretch of Highway 219 covered in the project was \$246,000 — a third of what it has paid a contractor for the same work.

And that's not all. The agency is providing the contractor with additional resources such as sand and deicer, state radios, and message signs.

Heard enough? There's more. ODOT leased two of its own plows to the contractor at the bargain rate of \$2,000 per month and purchased a new 1,500-gallon slip-in deicer unit for the contractor's use.

Isn't time — probably past time — to ground this "pilot?" HB 2973 would end this expensive experiment. Absent legislative action, ODOT would be required to continue this contract until 2017 costing taxpayers millions more.

VOTE YES ON HB 2973