

May 11, 2015

To: Senate Business & Transportation Committee
Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Vice-Chair
Senator Rod Monroe
Senator Chuck Riley
Senator Chuck Thomsen

Dear Senators,


I am here to testify in support of House Bill 3487, the Bill that amends ORS 703.450 to add the requirement that a Licensed Private Investigator must include their name along with their license number in any advertising for investigation services. This information is critical for aiding the public in knowing that the individual is licensed in the State of Oregon. Without the name and license number the public is unable to determine whether or not the individual or company advertising for investigation services is licensed, bonded and/or insured. DPSST maintains the database of licensed private investigators that is capable of being searched by name or license number and is accessible to the general public for the purpose of determining a private investigator's license status. Having this requirement will aid DPSST in enforcing the laws and rules upon unlicensed people advertising investigation services and/or conducting business illegally in the State of Oregon. This information was previously required by Statute but somehow was dropped out during the transition from the Oregon Board of Investigators to DPSST. Most Oregon Licensed Private Investigators care deeply about the integrity and public perception of our profession.

I have been a Licensed Private Investigator for more than seven years and served previously as Membership Director and as Past President of the Oregon Association of Licensed Investigators, Inc. I am currently serving my second term on the Private Security, Private Investigator Policy Committee at DPSST and serve as a citizen appointee on the Columbia County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. I am also an elected Director on the Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District Board and the Clatskanie Library District Board. I retired from law enforcement in 2007 after 27 years of service in a paid position and 3 years of service as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff for Columbia County. As you can tell from my involvement in public service I care deeply about our communities and our citizens.

I believe that getting this language back into ORS 703.450 which regulates the conduct of more than 660 Licensed Private Investigators is critical for public safety and consumer protection from rouge unlicensed Investigators advertising services within our great State of Oregon. I urge you to support the passage of HB 3487.

Thank you!

Respectfully,


Jim Gibson, P.I. #40909
Jim Gibson & Associates, Inc.