

**May 11, 2015**

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State Representative  
House District 22**

Good afternoon, Chair Hoyle and Rules Committee members. For the record, my name is Betty Komp and I serve House District 22, North Salem, Gervais and Woodburn. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on HB 3314-3.

Oregon's three branches of government have undergone numerous changes since we became a state in 1859. Prior to becoming a state we had a Provisional Legislature. On May 2, 1843 a nine-member legislative committee was created to draft a code of laws for the provisional government. It established a unicameral legislature and was required to meet twice a year in June and December.

Since those early days, our state government has undergone numerous additional changes, to address the changing needs of our state and our people. As a result, our state has long led the nation on fundamental initiatives that have greatly enhanced Oregon's quality of life.

It's time for us to tap into this spirit of innovation once again.

Today, with the growing complexity of the challenges — and solutions — facing Oregon, it's time for us to once again refine the workings of state government to help Oregon move into the future.

HB 3314 is a visionary bill. It is designed to return power and strategic planning back to the legislature. It responds to some very fundamental changes in the legislative process.

When our state recently changed our constitution to have annual sessions, it had a big impact on our decision making process. Because where we once had time to complete research and develop in-depth legislation biennially, our opportunity for visionary strategic governance has diminished. A large proportion of the balance of power now resides with the executive branch agency directors.

Now is the time for our legislative body to think boldly and strategically about our future. HB 3314's intent is to analyze and implement strong legislative statutes. Many of us can relate to the comment that "ideas percolate for years, but actions don't move forward." By creating this Joint Committee the legislative body can focus on specific topics, get the research to make decisions and zero in a comprehensive vision for the future.

The Joint Committee does not intend to supersede the standing policy committees. In fact, the standing policy committee could be the ultimate arbiter of

any omnibus or longer-term policy legislation once finally presented to a Legislature body.

What this bill represents the opportunity to level the balance of power between the executive branch, judicial and the legislative branch. When our legislative leaders develop a forward thinking process and strategic planning, the results will bring about strong transportation plans, best schools in the Nation, strong economic and business success—the list is endless.

Most importantly, HB 3314 continues the longstanding Oregon tradition of innovation to make sure that we can continue to come up with the solutions that our state needs today, tomorrow, and far into the future.

Thank you.