



**Claire Hall
County Commissioner**

Courthouse, Room 110
225 W. Olive Street
Newport, Oregon 97365
(541) 265-4100
FAX (541) 265-4176

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Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Thatcher, Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Claire Hall. I reside in Newport, I am my fourth term as a Lincoln County Commissioner, and I am a transgender woman. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 577 with the -2 amendments. I applaud Attorney General Rosenblum's efforts to strengthen Oregon's bias crime laws.

As a transgender woman, I am especially pleased by the addition of gender identity to the law. Transgender people, and especially transgender women of color, are among those most in danger of being victims of bias crimes. I have been extremely fortunate in my own public transition, but I know too many transgender people who constantly under the shadows of poverty, discrimination and the threat of violence.;

The provision to establish a standardized statewide tracking system for bias crimes is also welcome and important. In order to fully understand the scope of this problem, we must go beyond anecdotal data and have hard numbers documenting the incidence of bias crimes in Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Claire Hall
Lincoln County Commissioner

