

Dear Chair Prozanski

As the former commander of the transit police, I am disturbed at the notion of preventing transit police from assisting or being present when Fare Inspectors are doing their jobs.

TriMet's fare inspectors are assaulted every week. Whether they are shoved, punched, or spat upon, preventing them from having police back up boggles my mind. We need every tool we can to prevent assaults; to deescalate confrontations; and make it so MAX trains don't become free-for-alls.

Fare inspectors is a tough job. When people who don't pay learn the inspectors won't have police back up, I believe the assault rates will grow.

The public wants to have a safe MAX system and rider surveys – people who actually use the system – want more police, n not less.

This is all happening in the shadow of the Jeremy Christian trial where three people were stabbed and two died. I am concerned about the unintended consequences HB 4097. Please take a step back and reconsider the alternatives.

Sincerely,

Sara Westbrook