

Testimony of Commissioner Jay Bozievich on SB 554
West Lane – District 1
Lane County, Oregon
24865 Fir Grove Lane
Elmira, OR 97437

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee.

I am writing to speak in opposition to SB 554. This bill would give local government the ability to infringe on a right affirmed in both the United States and Oregon Constitutions. While you may hear me speak passionately about local control, you will never hear me speak about local restrictions on basic freedoms and individual rights. SB 554 will allow for those local restrictions of rights and the bill should be dropped from consideration in this session or the future.

We affirmed many natural rights inherent to the people in the Oregon Constitution that you all swore an oath to protect. One of those rights is described in Article 1 Section 27, “The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence [sic] of themselves”. We also affirmed the right to freedom of worship, freedom of speech and the press, trial by jury, and equality of privileges and immunities of citizens.

Would you support a bill that gave local government the authority to place limits on religious worship?

Would you support a bill that gave local government the authority to place limits on speech or the press?

Would you support a bill that gave local government the authority to restrict trial by jury?

Would you support a bill that gave local government the authority to allow unequal treatment of certain citizens?

If your answer to any of the questions above is “no” then you must stop all work on this bill and allow it to die in this committee. It should never have even been scheduled for a hearing.

Please oppose any further work on this bill, no amount of amendment can fix the violations of the state and federal constitution this bill would try to make permissible.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Jay Bozievich, on behalf of myself and my constituents