



A PLAN TO PROVIDE 24/7 STATE POLICE PROTECTION WITHOUT NEW TAXES

**Joint Editorial submitted by
Rep. Vicki Berger (R-Salem) and Rep. Kevin Cameron (R-Salem)**

During the 2006 campaign, Republicans and Democrats expressed a commitment to providing around-the-clock Oregon State Police coverage on our highways. Yet, the budget released by the budget-writes does not provide adequate funding to accomplish this goal. The Co-Chairs budget only provides for an overall increase of 85 state troopers.

Fortunately, there is a bill to provide dedicated funding for the Oregon State Police. We have co-sponsored House Bill 3535 which will permanently dedicate one percent of the General Fund revenue dollars (\$127 million) to a special fund for OSP's Patrol Division. It ensures around-the-clock coverage by putting 140 troopers back on the road to cover major highways, allows for future growth and does not raise taxes.

HB 3535 is a product of House and Senate Republicans, but it has earned bi-partisan support of seventeen Democrat co-sponsors. It has also earned the support of the Oregon State Police Officers' Association. HB 3535 continues to earn support because it's a good solution to a long term problem.

By dedicating one percent of the General Fund revenue to the Oregon State Police Patrol Division Fund, the Legislature can begin to restore the trooper positions that have been cut over the past two decades. In addition to funding 140 new troopers, HB 3535 will fund additional dispatch services to support these new troopers and will support other pressing Patrol Division needs.

Some say OSP needs dedicated revenue from a new tax or a tax increase. With state revenues up 20 percent over the last biennium, Oregonians expect their government to fund OSP with available means. HB 3535 prioritizes our state spending and eliminates the need for an auto insurance tax or a beer tax increase.

HB 3535 gives Oregonians 24/7 protection without asking them for more money. It gives the Patrol Division a dedicated funding source and allows the agency to grow as the state grows. The time to act is now.

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