



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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CONTACT: Nick Smith

503-986-1351

NO EXCUSES: OREGON NEEDS MORE TROOPERS FOR 24/7 STATE POLICE COVERAGE

Democrats Waffle on Adding More Troopers

SALEM -- In a press conference Monday, House Majority Leader Dave Hunt (D-Gladstone) said Democrats wouldn't fund more State Police Troopers because the agency is incapable of achieving 24/7 coverage this biennium. Deputy Republican Leader Andy Olson (R-Albany) today rejected the excuse and said the Legislature must fund 39 additional State Troopers in February.

"The time is now for the Legislature to fund 39 new Troopers to reach 24/7 coverage," said Rep. Olson, a retired State Police member. "Democrat leadership opposed funding 24/7 OSP coverage throughout the 2007 session, and now seem satisfied with the insufficient gains made in new Trooper hires."

In a response to a reporter's question about Democrats' ambiguity on 24/7 coverage, Rep. Hunt said OSP Superintendent Timothy McLain "specifically told us, and has consistently told us, that he can only hire, train and deploy so many Troopers."

[In a Jan. 9 letter from McLain to Rep. Olson](#), the Superintendent writes that "should the Oregon Legislature authorize us to hire 39 addition (sic) troopers this February 2008 Session we would be able to meet that goal."

"Seven in 10 Oregonians want 24-hour State Police coverage to ensure their safety," Rep. Olson said. "Oregonians don't want excuses. It's time for the Legislature to provide the dollars and enable the State Police to hire 39 more Troopers."

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