

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

April 29, 2005 Hearing Room C

1:00 P.M. Tapes 58 - 59

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. George Gilman, Chair

Rep. Terry Beyer, Vice-Chair

Rep. Chuck Burley, Vice-Chair

Rep. Deborah Boone

Rep. Scott Bruun

Rep. Dave Hunt

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Kim Thatcher

STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

Jim Stembridge, Committee Administrator

Mike Reiley, Committee Assistant

MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2655 – Public Hearing

HB 2809 – Public Hearing

HB 2887 – Public Hearing

HB 3013 – Public Hearing

HB 3116 – Public Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/# Speaker Comments

TAPE 58, A

003 Chair Gilman Calls the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. Opens a public hearing on HB 2655.

HB 2655 – PUBLIC HEARING

006 Patrick Brennan Committee Administrator. Introduces HB 2655 and -1 amendments **(EXHIBIT A)**.

024 H.A. MacDonald Greater Salem Area Veterans Organization. Testifies on wrong bill. Speaks in support of a license plate to recognize the contributions of veterans.

045 Mary Ellen Holly Keep Oregon Green (KOG), Inc. Testifies in support of HB 2655. Notes that Smokey Bear is the second most recognized symbol in the United States behind Santa Claus. Notes that the bill has no fiscal impact.

063 Rep. Burley Asks for an elaboration of “group plate program.”

065 Holly Answers that KOG will put \$10,000 up front and must sell one thousand license plates in the first year to get the money back. Explains that producing the vinyl decals for the license plates will cost \$8,000.

075 Rep. Boone Notes that she will get a Smokey Bear license plate if they are made available.

084 Charlie Stone Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Testifies in support of HB 2655.

088 Rep. Boone Asks how many license plates are expected to sell.

089	Holly	Answers thousands.
091	Stone	States that ODF employees have spoken for 210 sets of license plates in the first two years after they are made available.
098	Holly	Notes the partnership with Big Town Hero restaurants, in which information about the license plates are posted in the stores.
103	Robin Freeman	Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Submits and reads prepared testimony regarding HB 2655 (EXHIBIT B).
200	Rep. Hunt	Asks for an explanation of “custom plates.”
203	Freeman	Answers that custom plates are a specifically requested license number on a specialty or standard tree license plate.
208	Rep. Hunt	Asks where the \$3 million transferred from custom plates goes to.
213	Lana Cully	Vehicle Programs Manager, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), ODOT. Answers that the \$50 custom license plate fee goes to the Litter Fund.
224	Rep. Bruun	Clarifies that the money transferred goes to the organization that requests the plates. Asks which figures in the table (EXHIBIT B) are costs to Oregon.
238	Freeman	Answers that the costs are to DMV. States that she does not think that there are costs that are not covered by the program, but will provide the information to the committee.
248	Cully	States that costs occur when groups are invalidated due to lack of license plate sales.
255	Rep. Bruun	Asks how many plates must to be sold to break even.
263	Freeman	Explains the DMV costs associated with license plates.
267	Rep. Burley	Cites ORS 805.205 and asks why there is a difference in surcharges.
279	Freeman	

Answers that the surcharges are for veterans, higher education, and non-profit organization plates.

- 283 Rep. Burley Asks about consistency in the license plate surcharge policies.
- 292 Freeman Answers that there are different costs for each type of license plate.
- 305 Chair Gilman Closes the public hearing on HB 2655. Opens a public hearing on HB 2809.

HB 2809 – PUBLIC HEARING

- 308 Patrick Brennan Committee Administrator. Introduces HB 2809.
- 318 Maura Roche Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon. Submits and reads prepared testimony in opposition to HB 2809 (**EXHIBIT C**).
- 385 Treasure Mackley Field Director, National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) Pro-Choice Oregon. Submits and reads prepared testimony in opposition to HB 2809 (**EXHIBIT D**).

TAPE 59, A

- 007 Andrea Meyer Legislative Affairs Director, American Civil Liberties (ACLU) of Oregon. Submits and reads prepared testimony in opposition to HB 2809 (**EXHIBIT E**).
- 060 Robin Freeman Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Submits and reads prepared testimony regarding HB 2809 (**EXHIBIT F**).
- 114 Rep. Boone Asks if General Fund requirements would require the bill to go to the Ways and Means Committee.
- 116 Chair Gilman Responds that all of the bills regarding license plates have subsequent referrals to the Ways and Means Committee. Closes the public hearing on 2809. Opens a public hearing on HB 2887.

HB 2887 – PUBLIC HEARING

- 120 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Introduces HB 2887.

- 130 H. A. MacDonald Greater Salem Area Veterans Organization. Testifies in support of HB 2887. Proposes amendments to the bill to change the way in which veterans' plates are administered. Questions the \$10,000 startup cost for administering license plates.
- 200 Andrea Meyer Legislative Affairs Director, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon. Testifies in opposition to HB 2887. Argues that allowing the plates is a violation of the Constitution.
- 230 Rep. Bruun Asks for the mission statement for the ACLU.
- 233 Meyer Summarizes the ACLU mission statement.
- 240 Rep. Bruun Opines that the luxury of defending the Bill of Rights is provided by the sacrifices of soldiers.
- 251 Robin Freeman Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Submits and reads prepared testimony regarding HB 2887 (**EXHIBIT G**).
- 329 Rep. Hunt Asks how the time frame is figured to determine how long it will take to sell enough license plates to break even.
- 334 Freeman Explains the assumptions that are used to determine the number of months.
- 358 Mark Luka Concerned citizen. Testifies in support of HB 2887. Explains the work being done on war memorials and argues that commemorating veterans through license plates is akin to commemorating the civil rights and women's suffrage movement.

TAPE 58, B

- 004 Chair Gilman Closes the public hearing on HB 2887. Opens a public hearing on HB 3013.

HB 3013 – PUBLIC HEARING

- 009 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Introduces HB 3013 and the -1 amendment (**EXHIBIT H**).

- 017 Martel Radford Oregon resident. Testifies in support of HB 3013. Submits a sample license plate design (**EXHIBIT I**).
- 033 Chair Gilman Closes the public hearing on HB 3013. Reopens the public hearing on HB 2887.

HB 2887 – PUBLIC HEARING

- 038 Rep. Brian Boquist House District 23. Testifies in support of HB 2887. Conveys the support of Rep. Donna Nelson.
- 064 Chair Gilman Closes the public hearing on HB 2887. Reopens the public hearing on HB 3013.

HB 3013 – PUBLIC HEARING

- 070 Robin Freeman Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Submits and reads prepared testimony regarding HB 3013 (**EXHIBIT J**).
- 086 Alan Hageman Sergeant, Oregon State Police. Submits and summarizes prepared testimony in opposition to HB 3013, HB 2655, HB 2809, HB 2887 and HB 3116 (**EXHIBIT K**). Argues against expanding the number of registration plate designs.
- 106 Rep. Hunt Asks about plate designs that are similar to current plates.
- 109 Hageman Answers that the more styles of license plates, the more confusing it becomes.
- 114 Chair Gilman Closes the public hearing on HB 3013. Opens a public hearing on HB 3116.

HB 3116 – PUBLIC HEARING

- 119 Jim Stembridge Committee Administrator. Introduces HB 3116.
- 127 Rep. Dave Hunt House District 40. Submits and summarizes prepared testimony in support of HB 3116 (**EXHIBIT L**). Notes that the Crater Lake license plate has generated one million dollars in approximately three years.

165	Chair Gilman	Remarks that Crater Lake is in his district.
168	Rep. Boone	Asks why a sticker could not be made to put on a license plate, rather than develop an entirely new specialty plate.
189	Rep. Hunt	Responds that he would have no objection to such a change if it were to generate revenue for schools.
195	Rep. Boone	Notes that the specialty license plates are about making a statement about a topic and the sticker would be a better way to express and reduce confusion.
210	Robin Freeman	Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Submits and reads prepared testimony regarding HB 3116 (EXHIBIT M). Notes that the Crater Lake license plate was a one-time fee and it was more affordable than other specialty plates.
235	Rep. Hunt	Asks why there is a cost differential between 2,000 and 3,000 plates to break even.
242	Freeman	Answers that it is due to the graphic artists and costs. States that she will provide further information to the committee.
253	Chair Gilman	Closes the public hearing on HB 3013. Adjourns the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A. **HB 2655, -1 amendments, staff, 4 pp**
- B. **HB 2655, prepared testimony, Robin Freeman, 3 pp**
- C. **HB 2809, prepared testimony, Maura Roche, 2 pp**
- D. **HB 2809, prepared testimony, Treasure Mackley, 1 p**
- E. **HB 2809, prepared testimony, Andrea Meyer, 2 pp**
- F. **HB 2809, prepared testimony, Robin Freeman, 3 pp**
- G. **HB 2887, prepared testimony, Robin Freeman, 3 pp**

- H. **HB 3013, -1 amendments, staff, 1 p**
- I. **HB 3013, license plate design, Martel Radford, 1 p**
- J. **HB 3013, prepared testimony, Robin Freeman, 3 pp**
- K. **HB 2655, HB 2809, HB 2887, HB 3013 & HB 3116, prepared testimony, Alan Hageman, 1 p**
- L. **HB 3116, prepared testimony, Rep. Dave Hunt, 1 p**
- M. **HB 3116, prepared testimony, Robin Freeman, 3 pp**