

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION**

**March 29, 2001 Hearing Room 343
3:00 pm Tapes 67 - 68**

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Sen. Gary George, Chair
Sen. Rick Metsger, Vice-Chair
Sen. Margaret Carter
Sen. Bev Clarno
Sen. Ken Messerle**

STAFF PRESENT: **Patrick Balducci, Administrator
Nancy Masee, Committee Assistant**

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:
 **HJM 28 Public Hearing and Work Session
Overview of New Zealand Transportation Program
Robin Dunlop, Chief executive Transit New Zealand**

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 67, A		
008	Sen. Gary George	Chair. Opens meeting at 3:18 pm. Introduces Robin Dunlop, Chief Executive New Zealand Transit.
012	Loyd Henion	Retired ODOT employee and consultant. Introduces Mr. Dunlop. Gives background on New Zealand's highways and roads. Mentions similarities between Oregon and New Zealand.
015	Robin Dunlop	Chief Executive New Zealand Transit. Shows slides on New Zealand and narrates details of the transportation system (EXHIBIT A) .
200	Dunlop	Continues presentation on the structure of New Zealand Transportation system. Explains the government's role. Discusses funding of the transportation system and charges to vehicles. Explains innovative contacting techniques. Discusses partnering concepts in government.
300	Sen. Carter	Asks if the design is not questioned, just the cost.
460	Dunlop	Discusses best value selection techniques. Continues discussing needs of the road users.
TAPE 68,A		
050	Dunlop	Describes New Zealand roads and safety.
080	Chair George	Asks about delivering projects in relation to gas tax. Asks if New Zealand has recently increased its fuel tax.
104	Dunlop	Answers that New Zealand has not increased its fuel tax in recent years, but has continued to invest more in modernization thank to efficiency gains. States it is dangerous to get into privatizing roads and must be done carefully. Discusses surveys on the population and results. States new technology is going to be helpful in the future.
140	Sen. Metsger	Asks about the petrol tax in New Zealand. Asks about freight

		movement in New Zealand. How much freight is on the road compared to rails.
207	Dunlop	Answers it is very complicated and explains the breakdown of taxes which is about 47 cents per litre. The cost to register a car is about \$200 in New Zealand dollars. Notes that the majority of the tax goes to non-transportation agencies. Also, New Zealand dollars are valued at far less than the American dollar. Explains freight transportation in New Zealand. Explains the rail system in New Zealand.
244	Chair George	Asks about the number of public employees in the transit department and how it was reduced.
250	Dunlop	Describes how employees were put into private companies.
270	Sen. Metsger	Reiterates New Zealand policy on land transit and other authorities and contracting in New Zealand.
286	Chair George	Thanks Mr. Dunlop. Asks Weight Mile Tax Work Group to report.
359	Chair George	Asks the work group to introduce themselves. Tony Rufalo, Gregg DalPonte, John Merriss, Loyd Henion.
365	Tony Rufalo	Chair of the Weight-Mile Tax Streamlining Work Group. First recommendation is to eliminate requirement of Oregon tax plate (EXHIBIT B) .
TAPE 67, B		
016	Rufalo	Continues explaining recommendations of the work group. Second recommendation is to restructure the existing weight-mile bonding program. Thirdly, recommends giving carriers the option to report quarterly rather than monthly.
097	Rufalo	Fourthly, recommends to continue ODOT's electronic (E)-government initiatives. The fifth recommendation is to eliminate or restrict exemptions to the weight-mile tax. Recommendation number 6 is to eliminate the use of flat fees. Lastly, repeal the education program requirement.
245	Chair George	Thanks the work group for their work and attendance. Opens public hearing on HJM 28.
HJM 28 PUBLIC HEARING		
261	Balducci	Explains HJM 28.
264	Rep. Bruce Starr	Distriact 3. Supports HJM 28. Gives reasons for supporting HJM 28.
337	Steve Lanning	Oregon AFL-CIO. Opposes HJM 28. Says the tax plan rewards the rich. States that Alan Greenspan warned against high tax cuts (EXHIBIT C) .
366	Dan Estes	Oregon Republican party. Supports HJM 28. Reads letter from Solomon Yue, National Committeeman for Oregon Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. (EXHIBIT D)
444	Russ Walker	Citizens for a Sound Economy (CSE). Supports HJM 28.
TAPE 68, B		
084	Walker	Continues explaining why President Bush's tax plan should be supported. Asks the committee to support HJM 28 (EXHIBIT E) .
180	Rex Daines	Morgan, Morgan, & Baines. Bankruptcy lawyer. Discusses clients' debts and need for more income. Bankruptcy reform is being undertaken. Asks the committee to vote for HJM 28.
	Chair	Closes public hearing. Opens work session on HJM 28.
HJM 28 WORK SESSION		

215	Sen. Clarno	MOTION: Moves HJM 28 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.
216	Sen. Metsger	Explains why he is voting against this memorial.
217		VOTE: 3-2
		AYE: 3 - Clarno, Messerle, George
		NAY: 2 - Carter, Metsger
218	Chair George	The motion CARRIES.
		SEN. FERRIOLI will lead discussion on the floor.
219	Chair George	Closes work session. Opens public hearing on SB 868.
		SB 868 PUBLIC HEARING
225	Balducci	Explains SB 868.
262	Chair George	Says SB 868 will be held over. Adjourns meeting at 5:03 pm.

Submitted By,	Reviewed By,
Nancy Masee, Committee Assistant	Patrick Balducci, Administrator

Janet Adkins
Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – Written testimony, Robin Dunlop, 33 pp**
- B – Written testimony, Tony Rufalo, 14 pp**
- C – HJM 28, written testimony, Steve Lanning, 2 pp**
- D – HJM 28, written testimony, Dan Estes, 2 pp**
- E – HJM 28, written testimony, Russ Walker, 1 p**