

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

April 9, 1997 Hearing Room C

1:00 P.M. Tapes 55 - 56

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Marylin Shannon, Chair

Sen. Ken Baker, Vice-Chair

Sen. Joan Dukes

Sen. Gary George

Sen. Mae Yih

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Lin Ludwick, Administrator

Nora Carlson, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

SB 458 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 55, A		
003	Chair Shannon	Calls meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 458.
<u>SB 458 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
005	Sen. Randy Miller	District 13, provides testimony in support of SB 458, issues discussed: * posted speed limits * speed statistics
061	Sen. Miller	Continues with testimony on driver behavior and safety issues.

118	Sen. Miller	Continues with testimony on maximum speed limits.
133	Chair Shannon	Asks if he has amendments to propose.
138	Sen. Miller	Explains that he will propose amendments that will define Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) authority to change speed limit posting.
146	Chair Shannon	Asks about research which shows that if speed limits are increased to 65 mph, the death toll will increase.
155	Sen. Miller	Responds that there are a lot of complex statistics; further describes how you can manufacture any kind of information with statistics.
198	Sen. Miller	Continues with testimony on safety concerns.
216	Sen. Baker	Comments on the bill's reference to rural interstate highway; asks to define rural interstate highways.
221	Sen. Miller	Identifies the I-5 and I-804 freeways.
228	Sen. Baker	Asks if this will include Highway 26.
230	Sen. Miller	Responds that he hopes the proposed legislation will authorize ODOT to set speed limits on any stretch of highways within the state.
256	Chair Shannon	Asks if raising the speed limit will create a danger to school buses.
263	Sen. Miller	Responds that there have always been distinctions between trucks and buses and agrees that speeds should remain the same.
289	John R. Tongue	Member, Oregon Transportation Safety Committee, submits and provides testimony in opposition to SB 458 (EXHIBIT A).
344	Tongue	Provides overhead presentation on traffic safety and ODOT priorities.
404	Tongue	Continues with overhead presentation on rural interstates speeds.
TAPE 56, A		
019	Tongue	Continues with overhead presentation on average speeds.
070	Tongue	Continues with overhead presentation on fatality data.
120	Tongue	Continues with overhead presentation, issues discussed: * Oregon State Police patrol results * ODOT survey on speed limits
160	Tongue	Continues with testimony on agencies advocating change in posted speed limits; comments that if anyone suggests an increase in posted speeds in Oregon, ask them if it would cause an increase in deaths.
177	Al Shannon	Director of Pupil Transportation, Oregon Department of Education, submits and provides testimony in opposition to SB 458 (EXHIBIT B), issues discussed: * child safety

		* increased costs to school districts
249	Chair Shannon	Asks whether school buses should remain at 55 mph if the speed limit is increased to 70 mph.
248	Shannon	Responds that they are concerned about the speed differential between passenger cars and school buses and agrees that buses should remain at 55 mph.
259	Sen. Dukes	Asks if he will be willing to work with the committee; suggests looking into the use of flasher lights, used on slow moving trucks, for school buses.
280	Shannon	Responds that he would be willing to work with the committee and describes efforts to increase public awareness to the presence of school buses.
298	Debra Lincoln	Special Education bus driver, provides testimony in opposition to SB 458.
340	Bennett Langlotz	National Motorists Association (NMA), submits and provides testimony in support of SB 458 (EXHIBIT C), issues discussed: * current speed limits * motor vehicle fatalities
400	Langlotz	Continues with presentation on Oregon's rural freeways.
TAPE 55, B		
025	Langlotz	Continues with presentation on fatality rates versus vehicle speeds.
070	Langlotz	Continues with presentation on patrol funding and speed statistics.
120	Langlotz	Continues with presentation on speed statistics and comparisons.
170	Langlotz	Continues with presentation on fatalities and patrol results.
200	Langlotz	Clarifies earlier comment on how ODOT sets speed limits; comments that speed limits are based on a study on the type of vehicles that people are currently driving.
219	Sen. Yih	Asks for clarification that the federal government did not allow ODOT to conduct a study that reflects driving speeds.
222	Langlotz	Responds that the federal government now permits Oregon to set its own freeway limits and that the current law must be repealed by proposed legislation.
230	Sen. Yih	Asks if this bill would make it consistent with the federal law.
232	Langlotz	Responds that the federal government has stepped out of establishing state speed limits.
242	Sen. Yih	Asks what year the speed limit was restored to 55 mph.
245	Langlotz	Identifies the year as 1987.
		Asks for clarification that only four percent of the fatalities occur on

257	Sen. George	rural roadways.
260	Langlotz	Clarifies percentage.
267	Sen. George	Observes that if ODOT intends to keep fatalities down, there should be concern about new construction and building freeways to reduce overcrowding on highways.
270	Langlotz	Agrees that it will be one approach in dealing with congestion issues.
270	Chair Shannon	Asks if he will support proposed amendments that will be introduced at a later date.
272	Langlotz	Responds that he was recently made aware of them.
283	Earl Fultz	Oregon Log Trucker Association, provides testimony in support of SB 458.
343	Sen. George	Comments on trucks that are capable of going faster than other trucks
405	Larry Christianson	Roadway Safety Program Coordinator, ODOT, submits and provides testimony on SB 458 (EXHIBIT D) issues discussed: * speed policy stakeholder group * increase in patrol strength
TAPE 56, B		
035	Christianson	Continues with testimony on the proposed support for speed limits.
051	Sen. Yih	Asks about ODOT's engineering study regarding speed.
056	Christianson	Responds the speed monitoring data was estimated at 71 to 72 mph.
058	Sen. Yih	Asks how recent the study was completed.
060	Christianson	Responds that the data was gathered over the past year.
062	Sen. Yih	Asks about ODOT's position on Oregon's dual speed limit: one limit for trucks and one limit for passenger vehicles.
065	Christianson	Responds that ODOT is comfortable with the differential of 10 mph.
075	Sen. Yih	Asks about ODOT's recommendation for rural highways.
078	Christianson	Responds that the recommendation of the stakeholder group was 70 mph for autos and 60 mph for commercial vehicles.
082	Sen. Yih	Questions concerning selected Oregon state highways.
105	Chair Shannon	Announces that a future public hearing will be scheduled on SB 458 and invites Sen. Miller and Dr. Tongue to provide further comments.
111	Tongue	Comments on NMA's stated goal for the abolition of all speed limits.
153	Sen. Miller	Comments on statistical presentations and the behavior on Oregon freeways.
200	Sen. Miller	Continues with testimony on safe speed rates.

223	Tongue	Comments on rate issues and road congestion.
265	Sen. Miller	Comments concerning behavior with respect to the rules of the road.
276	Sen. George	Asks about the percentage of fatalities on Oregon rural freeways.
279	Tongue	Identifies it at nine percent.
285	Chair Shannon	Acknowledges written correspondence from Larry Price in support of SB 458, submitted but not read (EXHIBIT E).
	Committee staff	Submits written correspondence on behalf of the American College of Emergency Physicians in opposition to SB 458, submitted but not read (EXHIBIT F).
290	Chair Shannon	Adjourns meeting at 3:02 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Nora Carlson, Lin Ludwick,

Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - SB 458, written materials, John R. Tongue, 32 pp

B - SB 458, written testimony and materials, Al Shannon, 15 pp

C - SB 458, written materials, Bennett Langlotz, 6 pp

D - SB 458, written testimony, Larry Christianson, 3 pp

E - SB 458, written testimony, Larry Price, 1 p

F - SB 458, written testimony, American College of Emergency Physicians, 1 p
