Umatilla County

Board of County Commissioners



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April 4, 2013

Senator Bill Hansell, 29th District State of Oregon 900 Court St NE, S-423 Salem 97301

Re: Senate Bill 833

Dear Sen. Hansell,

Here is some information to help quantify the numbers of people in Umatilla County who have an interest and may be impacted by the current harsh driver licensing requirements.

- o The demographic profile from the 2010 census shows that, of our 75,889 total population, 18, 170 (24%) are Hispanic/Latino. The greatest density is in the north and west county areas.
- o Today's Milton-Freewater School District student population is 1850, of which 990 (53.5%) are Hispanic/Latino.
- o In the Umatilla School District, 843 (64%) of their current 1316 students are Hispanic/Latino.
- o In the Hermiston School District it's 2349 (45.2%) of 5200 total students.
- o In Stanfield it's 211 (41.5%) of 508 total students.

We cannot furnish you with reliable numbers as to who has "papers" and who doesn't. But we can assure you that we have many decent hard-working people who don't have the documentation currently required and aren't licensed, but have to drive for work, school, medical, family or other reasons. We prefer that all drivers be tested, insured and licensed.

This legislation is especially meaningful in our ag-business based county. These people have been recruited by the private sector. They're instrumental to the vitality of our economy. We doubt that it's much different in the many other counties whose economies thrive or not, in proportion to their ability to grow, transport, process and market food, nursery and other natural resource based products.

We respect the rule of law. We don't feel that SB 833 undercuts the rule of law. Rather, by incentivizing people to take their drivers' tests, prove they're insured, and get a license, SB 833 strengthens the rule of law. Moreover, it enhances public safety and promotes good civics. We believe that SB 833 is good public policy. So, we support the bill and hope that it becomes law.

Thank you, Larry Givens

Bill Elfering

Jennis d. Scherty Dennis D. Doherty

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