



David Gomberg—State Representative, House District 10

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Greetings Friends,
I wrote to you several days ago about a special meeting of the Joint Ways & Means Committee being held in Lincoln City. Ways and Means determines the final state budget and how our tax dollars are spent. I was pleased one of their “road show” locations was in the center of our district.

About 100 people were in attendance with roughly 50 speaking to issues important to them. Participants came from as far as Oceanside and Tillamook in the North and Yachats in the south. Many insightful comments were made on topics ranging from education to healthcare with several prevalent themes that I’d like to share with you.



Speakers from Newport, Depoe Bay, and Garibaldi representing a larger charter fishing community commented on proposed increases in hunting and fishing licenses to supplement the Oregon Fish and Wildlife budget. ODFW’s stance is that a shrinking population of hunters and anglers results in less license revenue. But our local businesses are concerned that large proposed increases will hurt the charter industry. Hunters and anglers have responded that the increased fees mean even fewer people will participate and might remove incentives to do so legally.

The largest group of participants came from our two Community Colleges. The discourse concerning college costs, importance of the SBDC, expanded options which allow high school students to earn college credits, and cooperation with the planned expansions at the Hatfield Marine Science Center were all constructive and speak to our community’s commitment to education. The clear message was that these colleges make a difference and deserve our support.

Several speakers encouraged increases in state funding of local schools. Others expressed their support for the recent “clean fuels” vote. Many spoke to restoring state police cuts. And we heard support for the conservation portion of the ODFW budget and clean waterways.

I was proud of the turn out and the way Lincoln County and District 10 presented themselves. In the days following the hearing, committee leadership and members commented on the poised, passionate, and well informed speakers. They also observed that people spoke to a larger coastal community and not just to their own personal funding priorities.

To everyone who attended, I want to express of sincere thanks for your contribution and for those whose schedules did not allow for participation, I hope to see you in the future.

*Warm Regards,
Rep David Gomberg*

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