



# PRESS RELEASE

REP. CHRIS GORSEK  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 49

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## **Rep. Gorsek's proposal to reorganize TriMet Board gathers support** *House Bill 3316 advances to Rules Committee*

Salem – A bill that aims to bring more accountability to the TriMet board gathered support in a public hearing yesterday.

Representative Chris Gorsek (D-Troutdale) has worked for years to empower public transit riders and improve service in Troutdale and East Multnomah County. As a newly elected state representative, Gorsek introduced House Bill 3316, which would allow local governments to appoint board members – a power now held exclusively by the Governor.

“The goal of House Bill 3316 is to create a board that is more responsive and accountable to TriMet riders by increasing local control,” Gorsek said. “Residents in my district who depend on public transit every day have struggled for years with a lack of service and representation. I’ve heard their frustrations and that is why I introduced this bill.”

A variety of supporters testified during the public hearing, including Senator Chip Shields (D-N/NE Portland) and John Hummel, from the Oregon Primary Care Association.

“Many of our patients rely on TriMet to travel to our health centers, yet riders and rider advocates are underrepresented on the TriMet Board,” Hummel said. “(This bill) would provide an accessible, convenient, clear and responsive forum for rider and rider advocates to make their case as to how greater rider representation on the board would improve TriMet. And improve TriMet it would.”

HB 3316 would give two appointments to the board for Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties, the City of Portland and the Metro Board. Multnomah County’s appointees would be required to live outside the City of Portland.

The House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development yesterday unanimously voted to advance HB 3316 to the Rules Committee.

“I will continue to work to pass HB 3316 this session to help give TriMet riders the representation they deserve,” Gorsek said.

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