

**Transcript of the Board of Commissioners  
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100  
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon  
Tuesday, September 27, 2011**

**HD 46 APPOINTMENT HEARING**

Chair Jeff Cogen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. with Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury and Commissioners Loretta Smith, Judy Shiprack, and Diane McKeel present.

Also attending were Matthew Ryan, Assistant County Attorney, and Lynda Grow, Board Clerk.

**[THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS THE BYPRODUCT OF THE CLOSED CAPTIONING OF THIS PROGRAM.]**

Board Clerk: RESOLUTION FILLING A VACANCY IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, OREGON STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 46.

Chair Cogen: GREAT, THANK YOU, THIS MORNING WE HAVE AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TASK BEFORE US. WE'RE GOING TO BE APPOINTING A PERSON TO STEP INTO THE OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE TO REPLACE BEN CANNON, WHO IS NOW THE GOVERNOR'S EDUCATION ADVISOR, AND WE HAVE BEFORE US THREE CANDIDATES THAT HAVE BEEN FORWARDED TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRECINCT PEOPLE. TRISHA PARKS, ALISSA KENY-GUYER, AND ROB MILES NICK ARE ALL HERE TODAY, AND I WANT TO JUST BRIEFLY OVERVIEW THE PROCEDURES WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW BEFORE WE GET INTO IT.

EACH OF THE CANDIDATES DREW LOTS TO DETERMINE THE ORDER THEY WILL PROVIDE THEIR OPENING STATEMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS. TRISHA PARKS WILL GO FIRST, AND THEN ALISSA KENY-GUYER, AND THEN ROB MILES NICK, BUT AS YOU WILL SEE WE WILL ROTATE THAT THROUGH THE EVENT. EACH CANDIDATE HAS FIVE MINUTES TO BRING AN INTRODUCTORY REMARK, AND COMMISSIONERS WILL ASK QUESTIONS BEGINNING WITH COMMISSIONER KAFOURY FROM DISTRICT 1, ASKING THE FIRST QUESTION, AND THE CANDIDATES WILL EACH ANSWER THE FIRST QUESTION IN THE ORDER THAT THEY GIVE THEIR OPENING STATEMENTS. EACH CANDIDATE WILL HAVE TWO MINUTES TO ANSWER EACH QUESTION.

AFTER THAT, COMMISSIONER SMITH FROM DISTRICT 2 WILL ASK THE NEXT QUESTION, AND THE SECOND CANDIDATE WILL ANSWER DISTRICT 2'S QUESTION. DISTRICT 3 AND DISTRICT 4 WILL ASK QUESTIONS, AND ACTUALLY, THEY ARE NOT DISTRICTS, BUT COMMISSIONER SHIPRACK AND McKEEL, AND AT THAT TIME, AND AFTER THAT, I WILL DO THE FINAL QUESTION AND THE FIRST ROUND. AT THAT POINT, WE'LL DO A TIME CHECK, AND THE BOARD WILL

CONVENE TO DECIDE IF WE WANT TO CONTINUE ROTATING QUESTIONS OR WHETHER WE'RE PREPARED TO VOTE AT THAT POINT. AFTER THAT, WHEN WE ARE READY, COMMISSIONERS WILL EACH MAKE STATEMENTS AND CAST THEIR VOTES IN ORDER BY DISTRICT BEGINNING WITH DISTRICT 1 AND SO FORTH UNTIL WE GET TO THE CHAIR. IF THERE IS NO CONCLUSIVE VOTE, THE BOARD WILL DELIBERATE AND TAKE A SECOND VOTE AND CONTINUE UNTIL A CANDIDATE IS SELECTED BY A MAJORITY OF BOARD VOTES. IN ORDER TO BE APPOINTED TO THE HOUSE DISTRICT SEAT, THE CANDIDATE MUST RECEIVE A MINIMUM OF THREE VOTES. BECAUSE THIS IS A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, THE BOARD WILL RATIFY THE VOTE TAKEN TODAY ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2011. A COUPLE OF BRIEF NOTES. COMMISSIONERS CAN ASK ANY FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME IN ANY ORDER. COMMISSIONERS CAN ADDRESS THE FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS TO INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES OR TO THE ENTIRE GROUP OF CANDIDATES AT THE COMMISSIONER'S DISCRETION. EACH CANDIDATE WILL BE ASKED EVERY QUESTION, BUT A CANDIDATE CAN CHOOSE TO PASS ON A QUESTION IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ANSWER IT. COMMISSIONERS CAN ALSO PASS ON ASKING QUESTIONS IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING INQUISITIVE THIS MORNING. THERE WON'T BE -- I DOUBT IT. YOU NEVER KNOW. THERE IS NOT GOING TO BE ANY PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THIS MEETING. THIS IS A CAREFULLY PRESCRIBED PROCESS THAT WE HAVE USED IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, SOME OF THE QUESTIONS THAT WE WILL BE ASKING THIS MORNING HAVE COME FROM THE PUBLIC VIA FACEBOOK, TWITTER, EMAIL, ETC., AND I JUST DO WANT TO SAY THAT IT'S BEEN VERY HEARTENING TO SEE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN THIS PROCESS. I KNOW EVERYONE ON THIS BOARD HAS BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE SHEER NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM IN THIS COMMUNITY. IN PERSON, ON THE PHONE, AND THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, AND I THINK THAT THAT'S A GOOD THING FOR, FOR OUR COMMUNITY. IT BODES WELL THAT PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JOB THAT THE THREE OF YOU ARE SEEKING, AND THAT SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE WEIGHED IN. AT THIS POINT, I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS BY INVITING TRISHA PARKS TO OFF HER INTRODUCTORY MARKS. YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES.

Ms. Parks: GOOD MORNING. I AM TRISHA PARKS, AND I BELIEVE THAT I WILL MAKE THE BEST CHOICE FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 46. HERE'S WHY. AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER, I AM CURRENTLY ALSO A PUBLIC SERVANT. AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER, I HAVE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CARING PARENTS WHO ARE ALWAYS LOOKING INTO WHAT IT IS THAT I AM DOING. IT IS MY JOB TO WORK WITHIN FEDERAL REGULATIONS, STATE STANDARDS, AND BOARD POLICY, DISTRICT BOARD POLICY TO DO MY JOB IN CREATING AND DELIVERING EDUCATIONAL UNITS. THEN I HAVE TO MEASURE MY WORK AND SHARE THAT INFORMATION WITH THE STUDENTS AND THE PARENTS, AND EVEN THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. SO, I'M ALREADY SERVING THE PUBLIC, AND I ALREADY HAVE THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH PETERSEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. AND HAVING A TRANSPARENT PROCESS IN MY JOB, AND

FOLLOWING ALL OF THE STIPULATIONS OF MY JOB. ALSO, AS A LABOR LEADER, I WAS PRESIDENT OF THE BEAVERTON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION. THAT'S A FULL-TIME POSITION. IT'S A POSITION THAT'S ELECTED. IT'S A POSITION WHERE I AM NOT ONLY ADVOCATING FOR MEMBERS. I AM WORKING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND BRINGING PARTIES TOGETHER AND, AND WE'RE MAKING HUGE DECISIONS. WE PASSED MANY LEVIES, WE ELECTED MANY PRO EDUCATION CANDIDATES OUT IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, AND I BARGAINED AND RATIFIED THREE CONTRACTS WHILE I WAS PRESIDENT. NOW, IF YOU HAVE NOT BARGAINED FOR A CONTRACT BEFORE, THAT TAKES A WHOLE BEVY OF SKILLS. IT REQUIRES YOU TO HOLD THE LINE AND KNOW YOUR POSITION. IT ALSO REQUIRES YOU TO WORK WITH PEOPLE WITH VERY DIFFERENT INTERESTS AND TO COME TO, TO THE TABLE TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS AND TO COME TOGETHER WITH A MUTUAL AGREEMENT THAT BENEFITS ALL. SO, I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT AND BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER IN, I THINK, THERE WERE 800 PEOPLE ONE TIME IN FRONT OF THE MEDIA, GATHERING TO SUPPORT OUR CONTRACT. SO, THOSE ARE SOME OF THE EXPERIENCES THAT I HAVE HAD AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER AND AS A UNION LEADER. ALSO, AS A TEACHER, I AM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY AND SERVICE IN MY SCHOOL. THAT MEANS THAT I AM IN CHARGE OF MAKING SURE THE 900 STUDENTS IN MY SCHOOL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE SERVICE WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE DONE ON A SMALL SCALE IS WE HAVE STARTED A GARDEN AT MY SCHOOL WHERE THE STUDENTS ARE PLANTING AND, AND THAT THE VEGETABLES ARE BEING HARVESTED RIGHT INTO THE CAFETERIA RIGHT INTO THE, THE SALAD BAR. THAT'S BEEN EXCITING, AND I SEE THAT HAPPEN AT MY DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL, ATKINSON, AND THAT'S WHERE I WAS INSPIRED. I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON BRINGING LANGUAGE INTO THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE AN IMMERSION PROGRAM IN ATKINSON, BUT THAT'S HALF THE STUDENTS. AND THE OTHER STUDENTS WANT A SECOND LANGUAGE, SO I'VE BEEN WORKING ON BRINGING SPANISH AND VIETNAMESE AND MANDARIN INTO THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM SO STUDENTS AND PARENTS HAVE CHOICES. SO I FEEL LIKE I AM READY TO STEP IN AND READY TO WORK IN SALEM. AS PRESIDENT OF THE BEAVERTON ASSOCIATION, I HAD TO SPEND QUITE A BIT OF TIME GOING TO SALEM AND TALKING TO THE DIFFERENT COMMITTEES AND WORKING WITH DIFFERENT LEGISLATORS ON ISSUES. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT, THAT I WORK WITH WAS, WAS, WAS THE HEALTH CARE POOL, NOW, I DIDN'T AGREE WITH EVERYTHING SENATOR DECKERT WAS MOVING FORWARD, BUT, I CERTAINLY HAD HIS EAR, AND I CERTAINLY SPENT A LOT OF TIME ADVOCATING FOR OUR MEMBERS, AND ACTUALLY, IT TURNED OUT PRETTY WELL FOR US BECAUSE WE MANAGED OUR HEALTH CARE IN BEAVERTON. SO, THOSE WERE SOME OF THE EXPERIENCES. SO, I HAVE SOME PASSION FOR THE SMALL THINGS, LIKE THE GARDEN THAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT, AND THEN PASSION FOR THE BIG, IMPORTANT THINGS LIKE GETTING OREGONIANS BACK TO WORK. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT WE HAVE SOME SUCCESSES THAT WE CAN ABSOLUTELY USE, YOU KNOW, THE SUN SCHOOLS PROGRAM THAT ARE GOING ON HERE IN

PORTLAND ARE AN ANSWER TO MANY OF OUR FAMILY SITUATIONS THROUGH THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. WHAT A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM THAT MEETS SO MANY NEEDS, AND SHOULDN'T WE BE EXPANDING AND USING PROGRAMS THAT WORK WELL? THAT JUST MAKES SENSE. AND HOWEVER, I HAVE TO SAY THAT MY THREE POINTS, THAT I REALLY WANT TO TAKE CHARGE OF, MOVING INTO THE LEGISLATURE, IS I WOULD LIKE TO SEE TRANSPARENCY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE TRANSPARENCY IN THE PROCESS OF WHEN OREGON TAKES ON JOBS, LARGE JOBS, AND WHERE ARE THOSE JOBS GOING? ARE OREGONIANS BEING HIRED? I'M THINKING ABOUT, YOU KNOW, LARGE, MAYBE FEDERAL JOBS THAT COME INTO THE STATE. HOW MANY OREGONIANS IS THAT PUTTING TO WORK? I WANT TO SEE TRANSPARENCY IN THE WAY THAT WE FUND EDUCATION FROM PRE-K ALL THE WAY UP TO POST-K. RIGHT NOW, IT'S KIND OF A MIXED BAG. I THINK THAT WE NEED TRANSPARENCY THERE. AND I ALSO THINK THAT WE NEED SOME TRANSPARENCY IN TAX FAIRNESS. WE TALK ABOUT OUR BUDGET SHORTAGES, BUT WE REALLY SEEM TO NOT TALK ABOUT WHERE DO WE GO OUR REVENUE? EXACTLY HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN? HOW FAIR IS THAT PROCESS? AND HOW TRANSLUCENT IS IT TO VOTERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND I LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING TO YOU MORE.

Chair Cogen: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. AND NOW THE SECOND CANDIDATE, ALISSA KENY-GUYER, WILL OFFER HER OPENING REMARKS.

>> GOOD MORNING, CHAIR COGEN AND COMMISSIONERS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY AND FOR YOUR IMPORTANT SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. MULTNOMAH COUNTY PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR STATE GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO OUR CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY THOSE MOST VULNERABLE, I AM SEEKING THE INTERIM APPOINTMENT FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 46 BECAUSE I CARE DEEPLY ABOUT OUR MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS AND ABOUT THE WELFARE OF OUR COMMUNITY AND STATE. TOO MANY OREGONIANS ARE SUFFERING. AS A RESULT OF OUR SLUGGISH ECONOMY, INADEQUATE TAX STRUCTURE, HIGH HEALTH CARE AND PRISON COSTS, OUR STATE UNDER-INVESTS IN JOB CREATION, EDUCATION, AND VITAL SERVICES. A MIDST THE RISING MEADE AND DECREASING RESOURCES, MULTNOMAH COUNTY HAS STRUGGLED TO MAINTAIN ITS SAFETY NET, MUCH LESS TO INVEST IN THE PREVENTION PROGRAMS THAT SAVE MONEY ON THE BACK END. THERE ARE NO FAST FIXES. I HAVE THE RIGHT VALUES, EXPERIENCE, AND SKILLS TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO FIND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. I HAVE DEVOTED MY ENTIRE CAREER TO ELIMINATING POVERTY, INVESTING IN YOUTH AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES, AND PROMOTING CIVIL RIGHTS. DURING THE 17 YEARS MY HUSBAND AND I HAVE LIVED IN HOUSE DISTRICT 46, I HAVE WORKED IN OUR SCHOOLS, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, AND AT THE COUNTY AND STATE LEVEL TO TACKLE COMPLEX CHALLENGES. MY WORK REFLECT MY TOP THREE PRIORITIES, INVESTING IN CHILDREN, CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, AND REVITALIZING OUR ECONOMY. FIRST, OUR CHILDREN NEED SUPPORT FROM

BIRTH TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN READY TO LEARN, THRIVE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL, AND GRADUATE AND PURSUE POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES THAT LEAD TO MEANINGFUL JOBS. WHETHER RUNNING THE HANNAH ANDERSON CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION, OR SERVING ON THE PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY OR THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY, I HAVE HELPED TO INVEST MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN INITIATIVES THAT ENHANCE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR OUR CHILDREN. COLLABORATING WITH OTHERS, I SPEARHEADED THE STATE'S FIRST COMPREHENSIVE CHILD CAROLINA ASSESSMENT, LAUNCHED SATURDAY ACADEMY'S OUTREACH PROGRAM, THAT INCREASED MATH AND SCIENCE SKILLS FOR MINORITY YOUTH, AND HELPED TO BUILD PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS THAT LEVERAGE RESOURCES FOR OUR KIDS. MY NEXT PRIORITY IS INVESTING IN HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, TO ENSURE THAT ALL POPULATIONS HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING, QUALITY HEALTH CARE, AND SAFE AND LIVABLE NEIGHBORHOODS, AND A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT. AS A BOARD MEMBER OF IMPACT NORTHWEST, I OVERSAW PROGRAMS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD, SUN SCHOOLS, AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND THE ELDERLY, AND THE DISABLED. I HELPED TO CREATE THE RICHMOND HOUSE FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES AND SERVED AS THE LIAISON TO SOUTHEAST UPLIFT. AS A CURRENT BOARD MEMBER OF NORTHWEST HEALTH FOUNDATION, I SERVE ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE HEALTH CARE REFORM COMMITTEES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF ALL OREGONIANS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO SUFFER THE GREATEST HEALTH DISPARITIES DUE TO RACE, INCOME, GEOGRAPHY, AND DISABILITY. FINALLY, ALL OREGONIANS NEED TO LIVE AND WORK IN A VIBRANT ECONOMY, ONE THAT COMPETES IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND PRODUCES LIVABLE WAGES, WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT. IN THIS REGARD, I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF HELPING VERNONIA REBUILD AFTER THE DEVASTATING FLOODS. AS PROGRAM MANAGER FOR OREGON SOLUTIONS, I HAVE BROUGHT TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM NONPROFITS, UNIVERSITIES, BUSINESSES, AND ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO BUILD THE LEAD PLATINUM K-12 SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY CENTER. AND IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING, LEARNING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND ADULTS, THESE INVESTMENTS ARE ALREADY STIMULATING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE REGION. I SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF A FAMILY FOUNDATION, WHICH HAS FUNDED BROAD COALITIONS TO CREATE FAMILY WAGE JOBS. OUR GREEN PATHWAYS OUT OF POVERTY INITIATIVES AIMS TO ENSURE NEW GREEN ECONOMY INVESTMENTS ARE TARGETED IN LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES. MY CAREER AND VOLUNTEER SERVICE HAVE GIVEN ME YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN ANALYZING COMPLEX CHALLENGES AND EVALUATING AND IMPLEMENTING SOLUTIONS. I'VE BEEN A CHAMPION FOR INVESTING STRATEGICALLY IN EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAMS THAT BRING THE GREATEST RETURN ON INVESTMENT. I AM DEDICATED TO CLOSING THE ECONOMIC AND RACIAL DISPARITIES AND PROMOTING CIVIL RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE. I HAVE A RECORD OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER ACROSS DIFFERENT SECTORS AND ACROSS THE STATE AND INCLUDING

UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES. I AM DEEPLY COMMITTED TO OPEN, TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT. MY VALUES, AND DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE AND STRONG LEADERSHIP WILL ENABLE ME TO SHAPE THE MAJOR INITIATIVES TAKING PLACE IN SALEM RIGHT NOW. INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH FROM BIRTH THROUGH AGE 20, TRANSFORMING HOW WE DELIVER AND PAY FOR HEALTH CARE, AND REVITALIZING THE ECONOMY WHILE PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT. I AM READY RIGHT NOW TO SERVE AS A PARTNER WITH MULTNOMAH COUNTY TO ENSURE THAT WE PROVIDE THE INVESTMENTS NEEDED TO HELP ALL OF OUR CITIZENS LIVE TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL. I HAVE THE RIGHT EXPERIENCE AT THE RIGHT TIME, AND I WOULD BE HONORED TO HAVE YOUR VOTE.

Chair Cogen: WELL TIMED. [LAUGHTER]

>> THANK YOU, AND NOW I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE OUR THIRD CANDIDATE TO MAKE HIS OPENING REMARKS. ROB.

Mr. Milesnick: GOOD MORNING, TRISHA AND ALISSA, I'M ROB MILES NICK, AND IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR VOTE TO FILL THE VACANCY IN HOUSE DISTRICT 46. THE DAY AFTER I GRADUATED FROM LAW SCHOOL, ALMOST TEN YEARS, I LOADED UP MY BROKEN DOWN 1986 HONDA ACCORD WITH MY WORLDLY POSSESSIONS AND DROVE TO PORTLAND, OREGON TO LIVE WITH MY SISTER WHILE STUDYING FOR THE BAR EXAM. IN A WONDERFUL TWIST OF FATE, I MET MY LIFE, ELIZABETH, A LIFELONG OREGONIAN THE NEXT DAY. AND WE LIVE IN LAURELHURST NEIGHBORHOOD WHERE SHE GREW UP. I KNOW HOW DISTRICT 46 AS A NEIGHBOR BUT ALSO AS A CANDIDATE FOR OFFICE FOR MY 2008 CAMPAIGN FOR THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSION. OVER THE COURSE OF THE YEAR I KNOCKED ON MORE THAN 4,000 DOORS, AND SPOKE WITH THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS. FROM YOUNG ADULTS AND SINGLE PARENTS TO 80-YEAR-OLD GRANDPARENTS. MOSTLY WITH PEOPLE WHO DID NOT REALIZE THEIR STAKE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. I REMEMBER A WOMAN IN HER 70s LIVING IN NORTH TABOR, A FORMER SPEECH PATHOLOGIST. SHE WANTED SO BADLY FOR SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO DO SOMETHING, TO READ HER BOOKS. I ALSO KNOW ABOUT SHAPING POLICY IN THIS DISTRICT. IN 2010, I WAS APPOINTED BY JACKIE DINGFELDER TO THE BIPARTISAN [INAUDIBLE] COMMITTEE, CHAIRED A PUBLIC SAFETY WORK GROUP, AND WORKING IN THE DUI COURT I BECAME A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER FOR THE VERNON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION, AND THEN CHOSEN AS THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR THE NORTHEAST COALITION OF NEIGHBORHOODS. I WAS APPOINTED TO THE PORTLAND HUMAN RIGHTS' COMMISSION ADVISORY BOARD AND THE POLICE REVIEW BOARD, AND BY TED KULONGOSKI TO ADVISORY COUNCIL. THIS APPOINTMENT TODAY, THIS POSITION IS NOT ABOUT WHAT THE THREE OF US HAVE DONE HERE IN THE PAST. THIS APPOINTMENT IS ABOUT THE FUTURE. IT'S ABOUT HOW WELL THE LEGISLATOR YOU APPOINT CAN PASS LAWS TO PROTECT PEOPLE WHO ARE

HURTING, ACT AS A PUBLIC FIDUCIARY AND BE AN ADVOCATE FOR PEOPLE LIKE THESE THAT I HAVE MET ON THEIR DOORSTEP. IT'S ABOUT WHO CAN ENTER A PARTISANSHIP AND DIVIDED HOUSE AND RETURN TO THE END OF THE SESSION WITH RESULTS. THESE ARE THE ISSUES I WILL ADDRESS IN THE LEGISLATURE. JOB LOSS. JOB LOSS IS MORE THAN LOST INCOME. IT IS LOST IDENTITY AND LOST CONNECTION TO ONE'S COMMUNITY. I WILL WORK TO OVERTURN THE KICKER TO FREE MORE MONEY AND RESOURCES FOR PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITIES AND FAMILIES ALIENATED BY ECONOMIC HARDSHIP. I SUPPORT BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND REPAIRING SCHOOLS AND ROADS TO FOSTER AN ECONOMY THAT'S WELCOMING TO SMALL BUSINESS VENTURES. THESE THRIVE WITH THE HELP OF COMMUNITY BANKS AND ULTIMATELY, A BANK OF OREGON. PUBLIC SAFETY, AS ALIENATED AS JOBLESS OREGONIANS MAY FEEL, THERE IS NO GREATER FRINGE TO SOCIETY THAN THOSE LIVING AT OREGON'S JAILS AND PRISONS. SOME INMATES SHOULD AND WILL BE IN PRISON FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES. THE MOST WILL ONE DAY FIND THEMSELVES BACK IN THE COMMUNITY. TODAY, ONE-THIRD OF ALL FELONS REOFFEND WITHIN A YEAR, AND THE PROBLEM CAN'T BE SOLVED WITH BILL SIZEMORE TACTICS OF LOCKING UP PEOPLE LONGER. WE CANNOT AFFORD IT. I WILL SUPPORT REENTRY PROGRAMS THAT BREAK THE CYCLE OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT BY HELPING PEOPLE FIND CLEAN AND SOBER HOUSING. OBTAIN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. LOCATE JOBS AND IN MANY INSTANCES, DEVELOP HEALTHY COMMUNITY TIES THAT REPLACE NEGATIVE ONES. I KNOW THAT EVERY DOLLAR WE CAN SPEND AND SAVE ON PRISONS CAN BE USED ON EDUCATION, REHABILITATION, OR HEALTH CARE. EDUCATION, MY COMMITMENT TO FULLY FUNDING EDUCATION RUNS DEEP. I WAS RAISED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER, THE PRODUCT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM ELEMENTARY TO COLLEGE AND TEACH AT A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY. AS A LEGISLATOR, I WILL FOCUS ON OUTCOMES, NOT ARBITRARY BENCHMARK. I SUPPORT COURSES IN TECHNOLOGY, TRADE, AND CAREER PLANNING. I SUPPORT THE ARTS, MUSIC, AND DRAMA. ALLOWING TEACHERS THE FREEDOM TO TEACH TO THE STRENGTHS OF THEIR STUDENTS. HEALTH CARE, THE OREGON HEALTH INSURANCE DIVISION HAS APPROVED EVERY RATE INCREASE BY OREGON'S LARGEST HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANIES OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. TRIMMING THE REQUESTS IN ONLY SEVEN OF 40 INSTANCES. BETWEEN 2004 AND 2008, HOSPITAL OPERATING EXPENSES CLIMBED 40%, BUT INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE RATES SHOT UP 48%. IMMATERIAL TO PROPOSE A BILL THAT SHIFTS AND PLACES IT ON INSURANCE COMPANIES WITH A MAXIMUM PREMIUM INCREASE, CAPPED AT 10% PER YEAR. THE ONLY THING SEEING 15 AND 20% INCREASES IN THIS ECONOMY IS GOLD. AND OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS CLEARLY NOT AT THAT STANDARD. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE. OREGON ENJOYS A WELL EARNED REPUTATION AS ONE OF THE GREENEST STATES IN THE COUNTRY, BUT THERE IS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE AREA OF THE QUALITY. AS A LAWYER I SEE THIS AS A CIVIL RIGHTS' ISSUE. LAST SUMMER I MET WITH BEN CANNON ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL BILL OF RIGHTS AND IN ADDITION TO PROMOTING THIS BILL

IN THE LEGISLATURE, I HAVE A PLAN TO AN OREGON FOOD TRUST TO UTILIZE FEDERAL AND PRIVATE DOLLARS TO DELIVER FRESH AND LOCALLY FARMED FOOD TO UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES. LAST FALL, THE TEACHER I KNOW ASKED ME FOR MY HELP DOING STATE MATH ASSESSMENTS WITH HER KINDERGARTEN CLASS. THEY WERE TERRIFIC KIDS. WITH ENERGY AND CURIOSITY AND THINKING ABOUT THEM NOW, I REALIZE THAT THEY HAVE NO IDEA THE CHALLENGES THAT WE FACE. WHAT I WANT FOR THEIR FUTURE AND FOR MY SON'S IS A STATE THAT IS WORTHY OF THEM, PREPARED FOR THEM, WHERE WE SPEND MORE ON HIGHER EDUCATION THAN WE DO ON PRISONS, AND WHERE A GOOD EDUCATION LEADS TO A GOOD JOB. I PRAY THAT THESE CHILDREN WILL NEVER HAVE TO FACE THE POLITICAL REALITIES THAT WE HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME. I ASK FOR YOUR VOTE.

>> Chair Cogen: THANK YOU. NOW WE'LL MOVE ONTO THE NEXT PART OF THE PROCESS, WHICH IS TO BEGIN ASKING QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES. THE FIRST QUESTION WILL BE ASKED BY COMMISSIONER KAFOURY, AND THE FIRST CANDIDATE TO RESPOND WILL BE TRISHA PARKS.

>> GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU FOR COMING IN FRONT OF US THIS MORNING. SO, IF YOU ARE CHOSEN TODAY, YOUR FIRST REALTIES WILL BE IN, IN A VERY SHORT AND CONDENSED AND HIGH POWERED SESSION IN FEBRUARY. HOW WILL YOU DEFINE YOUR SUCCESS DURING THAT SESSION.

>> I WILL DEFINE MY SUCCESS BY WALKING IN WITH MY IDEALS, WALKING IN WITH MY PLANS, MEETING WITH OTHERS WHO HAVE SIMILAR IDEALS AND PLANS, WORKING TOGETHER WITH THEM TO ACCOMPLISH THEM. IF I DON'T FIND ANYONE THERE, I WILL BE BRINGING FORWARD MY BILLS WITH MY LANGUAGE THAT I AM PROPOSING AND FIND PEOPLE TO WORK WITH ME. I THINK THAT PUTTING HEADS TOGETHER FOR, FOR WHAT'S BEST FOR OREGON, CAN HAPPEN. EVEN IN A VERY DECISIVE SITUATION.

>> I WILL DEFINE MY SUCCESS BY NUMBER ONE, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE STATE, FROM THE DIFFERENT PARTIES, REALLY GETTING TO KNOW THEM BECAUSE I THINK THAT IT'S ESSENTIAL IN A SHORT SESSION THAT YOU BUILD RELATIONSHIPS SO THAT YOU CAN HAVE LONG-TERM GOALS. I ALSO WILL WORK HARD TO HELP SOME OF THE TRANSFORMATIONS HAPPENING IN THE STATE RIGHT NOW, PARTICULARLY, AROUND EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO BE A PART OF MAKING SURE THE LEGISLATION GOES FORWARD TO ENSURE THAT, THAT THE HEALTH TRANSFORMATION BILL AND THE HEALTH INSURANCE BILL AND THE ZERO TO 20 EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION ARE ABLE TO GO FORWARD. A LOT IS RIDING IN THIS STATE ON, ON THOSE PARTICULAR AREAS, AND IN THE AREA OF HEALTH CARE, WE HAVE GOT TO MANAGE AND, AND PRODUCE BETTER OUTCOMES FOR LOWER COSTS. WE WILL NEVER MAKE THE INVESTMENTS THAT WE NEED TO MAKE IN EDUCATION IF WE DON'T DELIVER



BETTER CARE FOR LOWER COSTS. SO, THOSE WILL BE BIG PRIORITIES FOR ME.

Chair Cogen: THEY SAY SUCCESS IS DEFINED BY WHAT YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN, AND WITH A HOUSE THAT'S SPLIT 30-30 RIGHT NOW, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE SOMEONE IN THE LEGISLATURE THAT CAN ACHIEVE TANGIBLE RESULTS, AND THAT'S WHY WITH THE FOCUS ON THE SPECIAL SESSION BEING ON HEALTH CARE, I DO PROPOSE A CAP ON ENSURE PREMIUMS AT 10% AND FINE WAYS TO WORK ON THE SENATE BILL 99, THE HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE. IT WILL BE THE FOCUS AND IS IMPORTANT FOR OREGON FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS AND HAS TO GO THROUGH IN A WAY THAT'S FEASIBLE AND WORKABLE TO MEET THE 2014 DELL.

>> Chair Cogen: THE SECOND ASKING BY COMMISSIONER SMITH.

>> Comm. Smith: THANK YOU. GOOD MORNING. THE COUNTY PROVIDES PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES THAT ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THIS COMMUNITY. A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF OUR FUNDING FOR THOSE SERVICES COME THROUGH SB-1145, FUNDING FROM THE STATE. IN THE FACE OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF CUTS TO OUR FUNDING, WE HAVE HAD TO MAKE TOUGH CHOICES AT THE COUNTY ABOUT PROGRAMS TO CUT AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE. WOULD YOU BE AN ADVOCATE FOR INCREASED FUNDING FOR SENATE BILL 1145 FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY? IF SO, WHAT ARGUMENTS WOULD YOU MAKE TO YOUR COLLEAGUES IN THE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING? IF NOT, WHY NOT?

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER SMITH. I WOULD SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING. WE CANNOT STAY IN THE SITUATION WE ARE IN NOW WHERE WE DO NOT PROVIDE THE SERVICES THAT ARE NEEDED TO KEEP PEOPLE OUT OF THE JAILS. WE, ABSOLUTELY, HAVE TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORK, THE GANG PREVENTION WORK, THE DRUG AND ALCOHOL AND, AND MENTAL HEALTH STREAM SERVICES THAT ALLOW PEOPLE TO, TO LIVE PRODUCTIVE LIVES NOT GOING TO JAIL, AND WHEN THEY DO GO TO JAIL, WE NEED TO PROVIDE REENTRY PROGRAMS THAT INVOLVE AFFORDABLE, TRANSITIONAL HOUSING, AND MENTAL HEALTH AND, AND DRUG ADDICTION SERVICES, AND SO, WHILE IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE LOCK UP THE CRIMINALS THAT ARE THE MOST VIOLENT, WE, ABSOLUTELY, NEED THE PUBLIC SAFETY DOLLARS TO PROVIDE A LOT OF THE PREVENTION AND, AND ALLOW PEOPLE TO RETURN TO, TO HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

>> Comm. Smith: THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU.

>> COMMISSIONER SMITH, RIGHT NOW, THE STATE OF OREGON FINANCES ABOUT \$1.8 BILLION ON CORRECTIONS. IT'S THE THIRD LARGEST EXPENDITURE IN THE STATE BUDGET, AND SO SENATE BILL 1145, WHAT'S TRAGIC ABOUT IT IS THAT AS THAT IS CUT, IF WE CUT FUNDING FROM THAT, WE, ACTUALLY, LOSE FEDERALLY MATCHING FUNDS, SO WE GET HIT ON BOTH ENDS OF THAT PROCESS, AND THAT CAN'T HAPPEN. THE FUNDS ARE SCARCE TO BEGIN WITH. SO, IF WE CAN INCREASE FUNDING, AND YES, I DO SUPPORT THAT, IF WE CAN INCREASE THE FUNDING, LIKE WE HAVE SAID, WE CAN SUPPORT WAYS TO, TO, TO PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RIGHT NOW, 85% OF THOSE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM HAVE A CO-OCCURRING MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER. WHERE HOUSING AND TRYING TO LOCK UP PEOPLE, WHO NEED HELP AND TREATMENT OUTSIDE OF THE SYSTEM, THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO NEED TO AND WILL STAY IN PRISON FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES, BUT IF YOU CAN FIND A WAY TO FUND AND TREAT, REHABILITATE AN INDIVIDUAL, KEEP THEM FROM RECIDIVISM AND OUT OF THE SYSTEM IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND THAT'S WHERE, WHERE YOUR FUNDING DOLLARS ARE SAVED, AND THEN THAT MONEY CAN BE SPENT ON A WIDE VARIETY OF RESOURCES ELSEWHERE. EDUCATION. HEALTH CARE. CONTINUED PREVENTION PROGRAMS. SO, ABSOLUTELY I SUPPORT FUNDING FOR THE IS SHE 1145.

>> Comm. Smith: THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU. WITHOUT A DOUBT, I SUPPORT THE FUNDING. IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR US TO CUT THE FUNDING AND LOSE THE FEDERAL DOLLARS. I THINK THAT THAT'S A FAIRLY EASY CASE TO MAKE. BUT, I THINK THAT THIS PROBLEM IS CYCLICAL, AND WE NEED TO GET AHEAD OF IT. WITH OUR FUNDING BEING OVER THE MAIN THREE AREAS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND PUBLIC SAFETY, AND WITH THE BUDGETS HAVING TO DIVIDE THAT, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE CREATED THIS PROBLEM WITH AN UNEVEN SUPPORTING IN EACH AREA, WHICH THEN SPIRALS INTO THE SITUATION WE'RE IN, AND WHAT I MEAN BY THAT IS, WHEN WE DON'T HAVE ANY FUNDING OR ANY PROGRAMS FOR THE CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITIES, AS THEY ENTER INTO SCHOOLS, AND THEY FALL BEHIND, THEY HAVE, THEY DON'T HAVE CHOICES, AND WHEN KIDS DON'T HAVE CHOICE AND IS FAMILIES DON'T HAVE CHOICES, THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS IS WE END UP SPENDING DOWN, DOWN THE ROAD, WE SPEND MORE MONEY IN INCARCERATION. SO, WE HAVE GOTTEN OURSELVES INTO THIS SITUATION WHERE WE'RE POURING ALL KINDS OF MONEY INTO LOCKING PEOPLE UP BECAUSE THERE IS A HIGH NEED, BUT WE HAVE NOT LOOKED AT DOWN THE RIGHT, HOW DO WE STOP THIS CYCLE FROM HAPPENING? IT'S -- STATISTICS SHOWS IT'S ONLY GOING TO INCREASE IF WE CANNOT SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE AND YOUNG FAMILIES. STUDIES SHOW THAT, THAT A CHILD IN POVERTY WALKS INTO KINDERGARTEN, WITH 3,000 OR 4,000 WORDS, AND A CHILD IN THE MIDDLE CLASS WITH PARENTS THAT READ TO THEM AND THEY HAVE PRINT IN THEIR HOME, WALKS IN WITH 22 OR, OR 22 TO 23,000 WORDS. AND YOU KNOW, I

HEAR STORIES ABOUT KIDS WHO DON'T KNOW WHICH WAY TO HOLD THE BOOK. SO, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, ABOUT A K-12 SYSTEM, THAT KIDS ARE WALKING INTO, COMPLETELY UNEVENLY PREPARED VERSUS WHAT IF WE HAD A SYSTEM THAT ABSOLUTELY SUPPORTED THEM BEFORE THEY HEADED INTO SCHOOL? AND THEIR CHOICES FOR THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR CHOICES FOR THEMSELVES COULD BE VERY DIFFERENT DOWN THE ROAD. NOW, WITH THAT SAID, WE, OBVIOUSLY, HAVE TO WORK WITH WHERE WE ARE TODAY. WE NEED TO PLAN AHEAD. WE NEED TO FUND FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FUND FOR OUR FAMILIES. BUT THEN WE NEED TO LOOK AT INDEED, WHO IS INCARCERATED? WHAT CAN WE DO POURING EVERYTHING INTO THAT, AS WELL, WHAT CAN WE DO TO PUT THESE PEOPLE BACK INTO SOCIETY, SOME OF THEM CANNOT COME BACK, BUT THE ONES THAT SHOULD BE BACK, WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE SURE THAT THEY CAN BECOME PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

>> Chair Cogen: THE NEXT QUESTION WILL BE ASKED BY COMMISSIONER SHIPRACK, AND SHE WILL BEGIN WITH ROB MILESNICK.

>> Comm. Shiprack: THANK YOU ALL. THAT'S THE END OF MY QUESTION.

>> Chair Cogen: FABULOUS QUESTION.

>> Comm. Shiprack: I THINK WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO A CLASSIC PROBLEM THAT, THAT LEGISLATORS CLASSICALLY HATE TO ADDRESS DIRECTLY, SO, I AM GOING TO MAKE IT THE BODY OF MY QUESTION, OF COURSE, AND THAT IS THAT, THAT, THAT YOU HAVE THE CHOICE OF, OF CUTTING PROGRAMS THAT WE ALL VALUE AND THAT WE DON'T WANT TO CUT BECAUSE THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT MONEY FOR THOSE PROGRAMS LIKE SENATE BILL 1145, LIKE OREGON PROJECT INDEPENDENCE, LIKE DOLLARS FOR, FOR COMMUNITY, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, BASIC EDUCATION. THERE IS ALSO THE OPTION OF RAISING MONEY TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAMS THAT WE ALL VALUE. I THINK THAT RECENTLY, A THIRD POSSIBILITY, WHICH IS REALLY VERY EVIDENT FROM THE WAY THAT WE FUND OUR PROGRAMS IN OREGON, AND THAT IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SO, THE, THE QUESTION THAT I HAVE FOR YOU, ROB, FIRST, IS WHAT WOULD BE YOUR FORMULA GIVEN THESE CHOICES AND THESE TOUGH TIMES, AND HOW WOULD YOU USE YOUR POSITION AS A STATED REPRESENTATIVE TO ADVANCE THAT FORMULA?

>> THANK YOU, SO I THINK IT'S KIND OF A MATTER OF, OF LIKE TREATING AN EMERGENCY PATIENT IN A MATTER OF A TRIAGE. WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO MAINTAIN AT A MINIMUM CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS SO WE DON'T DECREASE WHAT WE HAVE. BUT THERE ARE LIMITED RESOURCES. I SUPPORT LOCAL PREEMPTION, THE ABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, IF THE POLITICAL WILL IS PRESENT TO, RAISE TAXES FOR CIGARETTES, ALCOHOL, BEER OR WINE, AND I WISH SOMEBODY WAS IN THE ROOM, IN THE LAST LEGISLATIVE SESSION, BEN CANNON PROMOTED HIS NOW VERY FAMOUS BEER AND WINE

TAX. AND WHAT SURPRISED ME ABOUT THAT PROCESS IS THAT UNFORTUNATELY, THE MONEY WAS, WAS BEGUN TO BE DIVIDED UP BEFORE THE VOTES WERE TALLIED AS TO WHETHER WE COULD GET A PASS. I WOULD RATHER TAKE A 4% OR 5% TAX ON BEER AND WINE THAN SHOOT FOR THE MOON AND GET A BEST CASE SCENARIO OF 10 OR 11. THAT MONEY COULD BE APPLIED DIRECTLY TO PREVENTION PROGRAMS. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DRUG AND ALCOHOL, AND AS A FORMER DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNCILOR, THAT'S WHERE THE MONEY NEEDS TO BE SPENT. WE NEED TO FIND A WAY LIKE YOU ARE SAYING, TO FREE UP MONEY THAT IS IN THE SYSTEM FOR THE PRIORITY OF THE PROGRAMS THAT WE HAVE, AND WE WANT TO MAINTAIN. ONE OF MY IDEAS IS A HOME OWNERSHIP, MORTGAGE REDUCTION PLAN, WHICH WOULD HOPEFULLY FREE UP MONEY FOR SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND FOR INDIVIDUALS TO REFINANCE THEIR HOUSES NO LONGER BASED ON THE INCOME TO DEBT RATIO, WHICH AS THE INCOMES HAVE DROPPED, THE DEBT HAS GONE UP AND BANKS HAVE REFUSED TO MEET WITH THEM. THIS WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO MEET, TO FIND A WAY TO GIVE THEM MORE MONEY.

>> THERE IS A FEW THINGS, WE NEED TO NOT TIE THE HANDS OF THE COUNTY. THERE IS BAD POLICY, AND WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY THAT WANT TO TAKE CARE OF THE NEEDS, THEN WE NEED TO ALLOW THAT. SECONDLY, WE NEED TO LOOK AT -- ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WOULD LOOK AT AS A TEMPLATE WOULD BE NEED-BASED VERSUS ALLOTMENT, IF YOU WILL, WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE NEEDS, WHAT ARE THE NEEDS BY DISTRICT BY DISTRICT OR ISSUE BY ISSUE? AND MAKE OUR DECISIONS BASED ON THAT. WHEN THERE IS A CUTTING AS OFTEN HAPPENS TO BUDGETS, OR OFTEN HAPPENS TO PROGRAMS, YOU KNOW, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A PERCENTAGE OFF, THERE IS NO SENSE OF, WELL, WHO IS RUNNING A TIGHT PROGRAM AND MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE MOST PEOPLE AND WHO IS NOT, WE'RE GOING TO DO AN EVEN CUT. SO, WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SERVICES TO OREGONIANS, I THINK WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT WHERE ARE THE GREAT NEEDS? WHERE ARE WE SPENDING THE GREATEST AMOUNT OF MONEY ON THE GREAT NEEDS. SO, THAT WOULD BE ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I WOULD LOOK AT. THE OTHER THING THAT COMES TO MIND IS THE IDEA OF TRANSPARENCY THAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT, IS WE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO ENHANCE OUR ECONOMY, TO GET PEOPLE BACK TO WORK, TO GET REVENUE INTO OUR STATE SYSTEM. LET'S LOOK AT THAT, I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN, WE CAN CONTINUE TO, TO JUST LOOK AT CUTTING AND TO JUST LOOK AT, AT STEALING FROM ONE PILE TO GIVE TO ANOTHER PILE, IF WE ARE NOT SIMULTANEOUSLY LOOKING AT WHERE ELSE CAN WE FIND REVENUE AND WHERE ELSE CAN WE INFUSE THE ECONOMY BACK INTO OUR CITY AND OUR STATE? SO, I SEE THAT AS SORT OF WORKING IN CAMDEN, OR WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE IN THIS CYCLE OF CUT, CUT, IF WE DON'T, AT THE SAME TIME, PROPOSE A LONG-TERM VISIONARY PLAN FOR COMING OUT OF IT.

>> THANK YOU. THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS THAT WE NEED TO BE DOING AT THE STATE LEVEL TO MAKE SURE THAT WE INCREASE OUR REVENUE. ONE OF THOSE IS STIMULATING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, AND THERE IS AN OREGONIAN INVESTMENT PACKAGE THAT WILL BE COMING BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE THIS SESSION, WHICH INVOLVES A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT BUSINESSES WITH SMALL -- WITH CAPITAL, SMALL BUSINESS LOANS, AND STIMULATING THE GREEN ECONOMY, AND THERE ARE THINGS THAT, THAT WE NEED TO DO TO GET THE ECONOMY GOING TO BRING MORE REVENUE. WE NEED TAX REFORM AT THE STATE LEVEL. WE NEED TO REPEAL THE INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE KICKERS, AND WE NEED TO, TO MAKE SURE THAT WE KEEP OUR CAPITAL GAINS TAX WITH A POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF, OF CAPITAL GAINS CUTS FOR COMPANIES THAT ARE PROVIDING LIVABLE WAGE JOBS IN OREGON. WE NEED TO, TO, TO, YOU KNOW, TO REEXAMINE THE TAX CREDITS THAT WE'RE GIVING TO BUSINESSES TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE GETTING THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT THAT WE WANT AMERICANS PROVIDING LIVABLE WAGE JOBS OUT OF THOSE TAX CREDITS AND, AND IN TERMS OF THE TAXES AT THE COUNTY LEVEL, WE NEED TO, TO AGREE, GIVE THE ABILITY OF COUNTIES TO RAISE THEIR OWN REVENUE THROUGH PRE-EXEMPTION OF, OF WINE AND BEER, TOBACCO, AND THE REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX. SO WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE THE ALB TO RAISE THE REVENUES SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE THESE SERVICES. AT THE SAME TIME, WE NEED TO LOOK AT WHERE IS THERE A FRAGMENTATION OF SERVICES IN THE HEALTH SECTOR AS WELL AS OTHER SECTORS SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE SERVICES IN A MORE COST EFFICIENT WAY. THANK YOU.

>> Chair Cogen: THE NEXT QUESTION WILL BE ASKED BY COMMISSIONER McKEEL, AND WE'RE THROUGH THE CYCLE, SO IT'S STARTING WITH TRISHA PARKS.

>> Comm. McKeel: GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. CURRENTLY OREGON RANKS 46th IN THE UNITED STATES FOR PERS STUDENTS SPENDING ON HIGHER EDUCATION. WE SEE LARGE PERCENTAGES OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEAVE FOR OUT OF STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES. IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR OUR ECONOMY TO FIND WAYS TO KEEP THESE STUDENTS IN STATE AND PROVIDE THEM WITH REAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES POST-GRADUATION. HOW WOULD YOU, AS A STATE REPRESENTATIVE, ADDRESS THIS ISSUE?

>> COULD YOU REAP THE FIRST SENTENCE? I MISSED A COUPLE OF WORDS.

>> Comm. McKeel: THAT OREGON RANKS 46th IN THE COUNTRY, FOR PER STUDENT SPENDING ON HIGHER EDUCATION, AND WE SEE LARGE NUMBERS OF OUR STUDENTS GOING OUT OF STATE TO COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY.

>> THANK YOU. THIS IS, INDEED THE PROBLEM, IS YOU KNOW, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT BUDGETING FOR EDUCATION, AND THE THREE AREAS, YOU KNOW, PRE-K, K-12, AND POST-K ARE LOOKING AT THE SAME POT OF MONEY, YOU

KNOW, THE PROBLEM IS, POST-K, THERE IS HARDLY ANYTHING FOR PRE-K. POST-12 GETS VERY LITTLE MONEY. AND WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE STATE. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TRAINING, CAREER TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND JOB READINESS. SO, YOU KNOW, THERE IS A LOT OF REALLY AWESOME THINGS GOING ON AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES. THEY ARE WOEFULLY UNDERFUNDED. THERE IS A LOT OF CAREER TRAINING GOING ON THERE AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES. WE ARE ALSO REALLY HURTING FOR HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS. YOU KNOW, IN A CITY OF THIS SIZE, IN A STATE THIS SIZE, WE SHOULD HAVE MORE UNIVERSITIES, AND WE SHOULD HAVE MORE -- ANOTHER UNIVERSITY, AT LEAST, HERE IN PORTLAND. UNIVERSITIES BRING IN BUSINESSES. THEY BRING IN RESEARCH MONEYS. THEY BRING IN OTHER PROFESSIONALS. I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT I WOULD VERY MUCH WANT TO LOOK INTO, AS TO HOW WE CAN BRING ANOTHER UNIVERSITY INTO OUR STATE, AND ANOTHER UNIVERSITY INTO THE METRO AREA BECAUSE I THINK IT WILL DO NOTHING BUT, BUT INCREASE THE ABILITY FOR STUDENTS TO GO TO SCHOOL HERE. LOOK AT THE PROGRAMS THAT STUDENTS ARE LEAVING THE STATE FOR. WHAT ARE THOSE PROGRAMS? LET'S START HAVING THOSE PROGRAMS HERE. WHAT ARE THE WAYS THAT STUDENTS ARE LEAVING THE STATE AND GETTING THEIR FINANCIAL NEEDS MET TO GO TO SCHOOL? LET'S LOOK AT THOSE. CREATE THOSE HERE. SO I THINK THAT THERE IS WAYS FOR US TO DO THAT, AND I THINK IT'S IMPERATIVE THAT WE LOOK DOWN THE ROAD AND IMPROVE OUR FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND IMPROVE THE OPPORTUNITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL.

>> THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER McKEEL, THIS GOES BACK A BIT TO THE SAME QUESTION THAT COMMISSIONER SHIPRACK ASKED THAT, YOU KNOW, WE DON'T HAVE THE REVENUE TO, TO INVEST IN THE, IN THE INVESTMENTS THAT WE KNOW WILL HELP ADD TO OUR ECONOMY, SO, IT'S JUST A, A REVOLVING DOOR. CUTTING BACK THE COSTS FOR HEALTH CARE SO THAT WE HAVE MONEY TO INVEST. STIMULATING THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SO THAT WE HAVE THE MONEY TO INVEST IN HIGHER ED. WE SPEND MORE ON OUR PRISON POPULATION THAN WE DO IN THE UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES COMBINED. WE NEED TO GET OUR PRIMP COSTS UNDER CONTROL BY AGAIN, INVESTING UP FRONT SO THAT PEOPLE DON'T END UP IN THE PRISON, MAKING MODIFICATIONS TO, TO MEASURE 11 AND TO OTHER MANDATES, UNFUNDED MANDATES THAT WE HAVE HAD. IF WE STRENGTHEN OUR COMMITMENT TO EARLY CHILDHOOD AND K-12, WE WON'T BE DOING SO MUCH REMEDIAL WORK RIGHT NOW IN THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES THAT DRAWS DOWN RESOURCES AND PREVENTS PEOPLE FROM, FROM ACHIEVING SUCCESS. SO, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD ALSO LOOK AT A LOT OF THE FEDERAL FUNDS THAT CAN COME IN FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS INCUBATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND RESEARCH THAT CAN COME FROM FEDERAL DOLLARS TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS. THANK YOU.

>> COMMISSIONER McKEEL, I THINK THAT QUESTION IS EXCELLENT BECAUSE IT HIGHLIGHTS THE DUALITY BETWEEN THE EDUCATIONAL GOAL AND ECONOMIC GOAL FOR THE STATE, THAT RIGHT NOW, OUR ECONOMY IS REELING, AND AS A RESULT OUR HIGHER EDUCATION IS REELING FROM THAT. AND SO, TO HELP THE ECONOMY, WE HAVE GOT TO TRY TO INFUSE SOME MONEY, AND ONE OF THE WAYS TO DO THAT, IN A CERTAIN ECONOMY, PEOPLE ARE COMPETING WITHIN THE SAME ECONOMIC LOCAL TO, TO TRY TO FIND FUNDS OF THE SIMILAR SOURCE. IN A MANUFACTURING ECONOMY, YOU INFUSE AND BRING MONEY INTO AN ECONOMIC AREA. IF WE CAN DO THAT, WE CAN SUPPORT THE UNDERLYING SMALL BUSINESS VENTURES THAT THE HEART OF JOB CREATION, RIGHT NOW THEY ARE HAMPERED BY EXTREMELY HIGH HEALTH CARE COSTS. EDUCATION-WISE, AND I SAW THIS LAST NIGHT, WAS THE FIRST CLASS AT PORTLAND STATE, MY STUDENTS CAME UP, AND EVERY YEAR I TELL THEM, COME AND TALK TO ME ABOUT JOBS, INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, AND I WILL USUALLY HAVE FOUR OR FIVE GUNNERS WHO COME UP AND EXPRESS AN INTEREST. I HAD 20 PEOPLE COME UP LAST NIGHT AND SAY THAT I NEED A JOB. I AM GRADUATING SOON. I HAD FRESHMEN COMING UP SAYING I AM WORRIED WHAT I CAN FIND IN FOUR YEARS. THAT'S SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY -- AND TRISH IS RIGHT, WE HAVE SEVEN UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STATE. FOR A STATE OF THIS SIZE, WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO INCREASE HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES. RIGHT NOW WE ARE FORCING THE FUNDING TO STUDENTS. WE'RE CUTTING FUNDING AT THE STATE LEVEL, AND WE'RE PUTTING THAT BURDEN ON THE STUDENTS THEMSELVES. KIDS WHO DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO IT. THEY ARE TAKING OUT HIGHER AND HIGHER STUDENT LOANS, AND WITH A WEAKER AND WEAKER ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC FUTURE, AND THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. IT'S A DIRE SITUATION RIGHT NOW.

>> Chair Cogen: THE NEXT QUESTION IS FOR ME, AND IT STARTS ALISSA AS THE FIRST RESPONDENT. WE ALL KNOW THESE ARE TOUGH TIMES, AND GOVERNMENTS ALL OVER ARE INVOLVED IN SEEMINGLY ENDLESS ARRAY OF BUDGET CUTS. HERE AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY, JUST LAST MONTH, THIS BOARD HAD TO WRESTLE WITH AN ADDITIONAL \$12 MILLION IN CUTS THAT CAME DOWN TO US FROM THE STATE. WHILE ABOUT 9 MILLION OF THOSE CUTS WERE, JUST THE CUTS THAT EVERYONE WAS FEELING BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS BEING CUT, ALMOST 3 MILLION OF THOSE CUTS WERE MULTNOMAH COUNTY-SPECIFIC, BECAUSE THE STATE OF OREGON CHANGED THE FUNDING FORMULA THEY USE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. AND THEY PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED FUNDS BASED ON NEED, BUT THEY ARE NOW ALLOCATING FUNDS JUST BASED ON A STRICT POPULATION FORMULA. THAT MEANS ON A PER CAPITA BASIS THE SAME AMOUNT IS ALLOCATED TO PENDLETON TO ASHLAND TO MULTNOMAH COUNTY. THIS HAS LED TO A SITUATION WHERE OUR CRISIS, MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM, FACES COMPLETE EVISCERATION, AND WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE THIS FOR ONE YEAR, BUT IF THE STATE DOESN'T CHANGE, MULTNOMAH COUNTY'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM WILL BE DECIMATED. WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IS FIRST OF ALL,

DO YOU THINK THAT THAT'S A BAD IDEA? BUT REALLY, SECOND OF ALL, THAT'S WHAT WE CALL A LEADING QUESTION. SECOND OF ALL, WILL, WILL YOU COMMIT AS A LEGISLATOR TO FIGHTING LEADING A FIGHT TO CHANGE THIS, AND HOW WOULD YOU GO ABOUT TALKING WITH LEGISLATORS AND OTHER, IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE ABOUT WHY WE NEED TO CHANGE THAT?

>> YES, I THINK IT'S A HORRIBLE IDEA, CHAIR COGEN, TO EVISCERATE OUR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES. IT'S WHAT LEADS PEOPLE TO FALL INTO JAIL, NOT HOLD JOBS YOU, BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ECONOMY, DESTROYS FAMILIES. QUESTION, ABSOLUTELY, HAVE TO BE ABLE TO INVEST IN MENTAL HEALTH, AND YES, I AM VERY COMMITTED TO LOOKING AT CHANGING THE FORMULA THAT GOT PASSED IN 2007, AND DIDN'T GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL JULY 1st THIS YEAR, AND I THINK THAT IT'S, IT'S -- IT'S NOT A FAIR FORMULA TO, TO, TO ALLOCATE IT PER, PER CAPITA, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE COME TO MULTNOMAH COUNTY BECAUSE OF THE SERVICES HERE, AND SO WE HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF, OF PEOPLE THAT ARE FACING MENTAL HEALTH CRISES. IF, FOR SOME REASON, THAT FORMULA IS NOT ABLE TO BE CHANGED BECAUSE IT'S, IT'S -- THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE ACROSS THE STATE THAT ARE, OBVIOUSLY, BENEFITING, MANY COUNTIES BENEFITING FROM THAT FORMULA, MULTNOMAH COUNTY IS THE BIGGEST THAT LOSES FROM THAT FORMULA, THEN THERE ARE OTHER WAYS, I THINK, THAT WE CAN TRY TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION. ONE MIGHT BE TO HAVE A SEPARATE POT OF FUNDS THAT ARE BASED ON NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH. SO, RELYING ON A FORMULA ALONE, YOU KNOW, MAYBE THAT BE TINKERED WITH, BUT FINDING OTHER WAYS THAT WE PROVIDE SERVICES AND FIND FUNDING FROM THE STATE LEVEL. A THIRD WAY WOULD BE LOOKING AT HOW THE STATE CAN PICK UP SOME OF THE PIECES OF THE SERVICES THAT COST RIGHT NOW, FOR INSTANCE, THE -- WE PAY FOR THE COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE, AND THEN WE HAVE THE TWO ON ONE LINE, AND A SUICIDE PREVENTION LINE, AND ARE THERE WAYS THAT THE STATE CAN PICK UP THE COSTS AND, AND MAKE SURE THAT THE SERVICES ARE NOT SO FRAGMENTED. THERE IS A SAVINGS, BUT IT'S PER SUCCEED AS SOMETHING TO HELP EVERYBODY AROUND THE STATE? SO IT'S A WIN-WIN.

>> CHAIR COGEN, YOU HIGHLIGHT SOMETHING THAT IT AFFECTS NOT JUST MENTAL HEALTH, BUT A NUMBER OF SERVICES THAT ALL THE COUNTIES PROVIDE IN THE STATE OF OREGON, THAT THE FUNDING MECHANISMS THROUGH THE STATE, THERE IS A DISCONNECT BETWEEN WHEN IT HITS THE ROAD WITH THE COUNTY DISTRIBUTION OF THE ACTUAL SERVICES, AND COMMISSIONER SHIPRACK SAID IT WHEN WE RAN IT IN 2008, AND IT WAS A GREAT STATISTIC, THAT ABOUT 70% TO 80% OF THE DOLLARS, THAT WE ONLY RECEIVE 70 TO 80 CENTS ON THE DOLLAR, THAT MULTNOMAH COUNTY SENDS DOWN TO SALEM, COME BACK IN ACTUAL SERVICES. AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT HAS TO CHANGE BECAUSE THE SERVICES THE COUNTY PROVIDES ARE THE SERVICES THAT SUPPORT THE STATE. THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE



THAT ARE GETTING HELP, MENTAL HEALTH, DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT, AGING SERVICES IS COMING THROUGH MULTNOMAH COUNTY. AND SO, WHEN YOU CUT IT, THAT'S WHERE IT WILL BE DELIVERED AND WHERE THE PAIN WILL BE FELT RIGHT HERE IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY, SO ABSOLUTELY I WOULD LEAD THAT FIGHT, AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT I WOULD PROUDLY AND LOUDLY GO TO OTHER LEGISLATORS AND SAY, LISTEN, WE CANNOT KEEP BALANCING BUDGETS HERE IN SALEM ON THE BACKS OF COUNTIES WHO PROMOTE THE SERVICES. LARGELY FROM ONE OF THE REASONS THAT THE COUNTIES DON'T HAVE, HAVE THE INCOME STREAMS THAT CITIES OR STATE GOVERNMENTS DO. SO, WHILE THEY ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR FUNDS TO, TO MAINTAIN SERVICES, TO CREATE NEW SERVICES, THEY ARE LARGELY AT THE MERCY OF THE STATE AND THE CITY TO PARTNER AND TO HAVE SUPPORT, SO THE LEGISLATORS WHO UNDERSTAND THAT, AND ARE WILLING TO FIGHT AND SAY, WE'RE GOING TO STOP THIS PRACTICE, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE FUNDING TO MAINTAIN YOUR PROGRAMS, IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL.

>> Chair Cogen: THANK YOU.

>> AS I SAID BEFORE, AND I TALKED ABOUT IT, IS THE TRANSPARENCY OF PROCESS. I THINK THAT THE WAY TO TALK TO OTHER LEGISLATORS FROM AROUND THE STATE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THIS IMPACTS US IS TO TAKE THEM TO IT. WE HAVE, YOU KNOW, A SIMILAR ISSUE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN THE WAY THAT WE FUND EDUCATION ACROSS THE STATE. WE FUND THE EDUCATION ACROSS THE STATE, MULTNOMAH COUNTY, WASHINGTON COUNTY, SEND ALL KINDS OF DOLLARS OUT, AND IT GETS DECIMATED, OR, OR -- NOT DECIMATED, ALTHOUGH THAT, IT GETS MOVED AROUND THE STATE TO SUPPORT ALL THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND THEN WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO BONDS AND LEVIES LOCALLY TO TRY TO COBBLE TOGETHER A PROGRAM. WE NEED TO LOOK AT NEED. I SAID THAT BEFORE. NEED VERSUS A BOTTOM LINE NUMBER. I THINK THAT WE NEED TO TAKE PEOPLE IN, TO TALK ABOUT, HERE'S HOW MANY I AM SERVING IN MY MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMUNITY. HOW MANY ARE YOU SERVING IN YOURS AND HOW MANY DOLLARS PER HEAD ARE WE SPENDING VERSUS HOW MANY DOLLARS PER HEAD ARE YOU SPENDING? AND REALLY TALK TO THEM ABOUT, IS THIS THE BEST USE OF STATE MONEY? I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT IF WE WENT - - WE WERE, AGAIN, TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNICATIVE WITH OUR VOTERS AND TOLD THEM EXACTLY HOW MUCH WAS NOT HAPPENING BECAUSE THE MONTE WAS SENT SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEY WOULD LET THE OTHER LEGISLATORS KNOW HOW THEY ARE FEELING ABOUT THAT. SO, WE DO -- THE PIECE OF THE POPULATION WE NEED TO USE TO WORK FOR US, AS WELL. BY HAVING A LARGE PART OF THE POPULATION HERE IN THE METRO AREA, WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT MEANS THAT WE ALSO HAVE THE LARGE AMOUNT, THE LARGEST AMOUNT OF THE PROBLEMS, AND OFTEN THE MOST SEVERE. SO, YOU KNOW, I THINK THAT THERE IS WAYS TO GET THE STORIES TOLD IN AN ANECDOTAL, AS WELL AS A MATHEMATICAL AND STATISTICAL

WAY. DATA, DATA, DATA, I THINK, IS HOW WE NEED TO TALK TO OTHER LEGISLATORS ABOUT, ABOUT WHAT MAKES SENSE.

>> Chair Cogen: GREAT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. AT THIS POINT I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A FIVE-MINUTE RECESS, AND THEN WE WILL RECONVENE TO CONTINUE WITH QUESTIONS.

>> Chair Cogen: IN DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH MY COLLEAGUE, THERE WAS UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT WE HAVE MORE QUESTIONS THAT WE WANT TO ASK. SO, IN CONTINUING WITH THE FORMAT THAT WE'RE IN, THE NEXT QUESTION WILL BE ASKED BY COMMISSIONER KAFOURY, AND THE FIRST ANSWER WILL BE ROB MILES NICK.

>> THANK YOU. A PROJECT THAT WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON HERE AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US. WE HAVE NOT TALKED ABOUT IT YET, IS THE SELLWOOD BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION. WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER A, A FUNDING STREAM THAT DOESN'T QUITE MATCH THE NEED AS OF YET, ALTHOUGH WE ALL HAVE OUR FINGERS CROSSED. ONE OF THE ISSUES THAT MAY BE BEFORE US IN THE FEBRUARY SESSION IS, IS ASKING THE LEGISLATURE FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT. THROUGH THE JOBS AND TRANSPORTATION ACT THERE HAS BEEN SOME FUNDING THAT HASN'T BEEN SPENT YET THAT NEEDS TO BE SPENT, AND IT CAN ONLY BE SPENT THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ALLOCATION. WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF DOING THIS, AND HOW WOULD YOU CONVINCE YOUR COLLEAGUES THAT, THAT FUNDING THE SELLWOOD BRIDGE SHOULD BE ONE OF THE TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE STATE OF OREGON? COMMISSIONER KAFOURY, THAT'S A QUESTION, ACTUALLY, THAT, THAT -- THERE IS A NUMBER OF POINTS. ONE, I THINK IT'S A LITTLE UNUSUAL FOR COUNTIES TO EVEN BE IN THE BRIDGE BUSINESS TO BEGIN WITH, AND BASED ON WHAT ELSE YOU DO, WITH THIS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND JAILS, BRIDGES ARE THE ODD MAN OUT. AND THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT I TALKED ABOUT IN 2008. I WAS TALKING ABOUT FINDING A WAY TO GET A REGIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION, OR TAKE THE PLACE OF WHAT METRO IS DOING TO FUND BRIDGES. RIGHT NOW, THE SELLWOOD BRIDGE HAS A SAFETY RATING OF TWO OUT OF 100. SO IT HAS TO BE REPLACED. THE QUESTION IS FUNDING. AND I DO SUPPORT, AT A STATE LEVEL, FUNDING THE SELLWOOD BRIDGE EVEN THOUGH IT'S A REGIONAL BRIDGE, FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, TO PICK UP THE BILL THEMSELVES, IT'S TRAVERSED BY 60% OF THE PEOPLE WHO COME FROM CLACKAMAS COUNTY, AND LOCALLY WE'RE PAYING THE BILL HERE. THERE IS NO REASON THE STATE SHOULDN'T HELP TO KICK IN TRANSPORTATION FUNDS TO HELP THE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT. IT'S A PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT. IT'S AN ECONOMIC PROJECT, BECAUSE WITHOUT IT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO GO FURTHER DOWN TO POWELL AND CROSS THE BRIDGE, AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT, THAT BENEFITS THE REGION AND BENEFITS THE STATE, AND I WOULD ADVOCATE STRONGLY FOR IT. IT MAKES A LOT OF SENSE FROM A POLICY,

ECONOMIC LEVEL TO FUND THOSE BRIDGES AND MAKES THEM SAFE AND, AND INCREASE COMMERCE AND TRANSPORTATION. ABSOLUTELY.

>> ABSOLUTELY I WOULD SUPPORT THAT AND HELP DO EVERYTHING THAT I COULD TO HELP. IT'S A SAFETY ISSUE. WE DON'T KNOW WHO IS GOING TO BE ON THE BRIDGE IF AND WHEN, RIGHT. IT IS NOT AN ISSUE OF ONLY PEOPLE IN MULTNOMAH OR CLACKAMAS. IT'S A SAFETY ISSUE. AND, AND IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW MANY ARE CROSSING THE BRIDGE, AND I AM SURE THAT PEOPLE KNOW THAT, BUT IT'S A SAFETY ISSUE FOR ANYONE THAT CROSSES THE BRIDGE, AND WE WANT THE LONGEVITY OF SAFETY -- IF IT WERE A DIFFERENT BRIDGE, I THINK THIS COULD BE PART OF THE DISCUSSION, IF IT WERE A DIFFERENT BRIDGE LIKE ONE CROSSING THE COLUMBIA, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WOULD NOT BE A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT, ABOUT SHOULD WE DO IT, OR HOW CAN WE DO IT, BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT NOW BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS. SO, TO ME, IT'S A NON STARTER, HAS TO HAPPEN, IT HAS TO HAPPEN SOON.

>> HI, COMMISSIONER KAFOURY. I AGREE THE BRIDGE HAS TO HAPPEN FOR ALL THE STATED REASONS. I THINK THAT YOU ARE ABOUT \$20 MILLION SHORT NOW FROM THE GOAL. I KNOW THAT COMMISSIONER SMITH WAS BACK IN D.C. TRYING TO FIND FUNDS, AND FIRST, I WOULD HOPE THAT WE CAN FIND FEDERAL FUNDS TO MEET THE NEEDS SO OUR STATE TRANSPORTATION DOLLARS CAN GO ACROSS THE STATE. BUT, IF WE CAN'T FIND THE FUNDS FEDERALLY, I WOULD WORK HARD TO, TO GET THE STATE FUNDING FOR THAT, AND I WOULD LEAN VERY HARD ON THE REPRESENTATIVES THAT COME OUT OF CLACKAMAS COUNTY THAT DID NOT END UP PAYING THEIR SHARE IN THIS LAST ELECTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BRIDGE COST.

>> Chair Cogen: THANK YOU, THE NEXT QUESTION IS FROM COMMISSIONER SMITH.

>> Comm. Smith: ALONG THOSE LINES IN REGARDS TO THE BRIDGES AND, YOU KNOW, COMMISSIONER KAFOURY TOOK MY QUESTION. SHE IS THE BRIDGE LADY. THE QUESTION, THIS, THIS ISSUE OF BRIDGES AND JOBS, AND IT IS VERY APPARENT THAT ALL THREE OF YOU ARE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT JOBS AND THE ECONOMY AND HELPING TO MAKE SURE THAT WE GET STRUGGLING FAMILIES BACK TOGETHER AND FOLKS WORKING AGAIN. WE HAVE ANOTHER BRIDGE, TRISHA, AND IT HAS BEEN STUDIED HEAVILY, \$110 MILLION WORTH, AND THEY HAVE NOT QUICKLY MOVED ON IT. AND I WANTED TO -- THIS IS A TWO-PART QUESTION. ONE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU ALL FELT ABOUT THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING BECAUSE AGAIN, THIS IS ANOTHER BRIDGE LIKE THE SELLWOOD BRIDGE, WHICH WILL CREATE 3,700 JOBS, COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING WILL PRODUCE CONSERVATIVELY 22,000 TO 44,000 JOBS. THAT'S GOING TO BE A HUGE ECONOMIC BOOM FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY AND OREGON AND WASHINGTON, IN GENERAL. BUT, RIGHT NOW, THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MINORITIES IN THIS COMMUNITY

IS VERY HIGH. IT'S CLOSE TO 17% FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS. AND IN TERMS OF GETTING DBE PARTICIPATION ON THE SELLWOOD BRIDGE, WE HAVE A REALLY AGGRESSIVE DIVERSITY PROGRAM RIGHT NOW. WE HAVE A GOAL OF 20%, AND EVEN THOUGH ODOT GAVE US A 4% GOAL FOR DBE. WE TRIPLED THAT. SO, MY QUESTION IS, ONE, DO YOU SUPPORT THE COLUMBIA RIVER CROSSING. WILL YOU SUPPORT MAKING SURE THAT WE HAVE A VERY AGGRESSIVE DBE DIVERSITY PROGRAM ON, ON THE CRC?

>> AFTER TALKING TO YOU BRIEFLY ABOUT IT YESTERDAY, I WENT AND DID SOME MORE RESEARCH, AND IT DOES LOOK LIKE THE LEGISLATURE IS GOING TO BE PLAYING A ROLE IN FUNDING. SO, AS, AS A REPRESENTATIVE FROM HOUSE DISTRICT 46, ABSOLUTELY I WOULD BE LOOKING INTO FINDING FUNDS THAT WE NEED FOR, FOR OUR BRIDGES, OR WHATEVER BUILDINGS WE NEED TO HAVE GOING ON HERE. AS FAR AS MAKING SURE OF WHO IS, ACTUALLY, WORKING ON IT, THIS WAS PART OF MY THOUGHTS AND ONE OF THE BILLS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO BRING FORWARD, IS THAT THERE WOULD BE A TRANSPARENCY ON THESE TYPES OF JOBS THAT, THAT WHEN MONEY IS COMING IN, WHETHER IT'S FEDERAL MONEY, OR WE ALLOCATE IT THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE STATE REVENUE, THAT WE LOOK AT WHO IS BEING HIRED. WHO IS GETTING THE JOBS, AND THAT WE MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE A REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS, LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS, AND OTHER MINORITY OWNED BUSINESSES TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE PUTTING TO WORK ALL OF OUR OREGONIANS. I AM COMPLETELY COMMITTED TO THIS, ESPECIALLY AS, AS A WOMAN EMPLOYEE AND A MINORITY MYSELF.

>> Comm. Smith: THANK YOU. ALISSA.

>> COMMISSIONER SMITH, OVERALL, I SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE CRC. YOU ARE RIGHT THAT IT'S GOING TO CREATE MANY JOBS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD. THERE IS ALSO THE ISSUE OF CONGESTION, AND YOUR RIGHT THAT IT WILL CREATE MANY JOBS OVER A TEN-YEAR PERIOD. THERE IS ALSO THE ISSUE OF CONGESTION AND INTERSTATE TRAFFIC, AND SO IT GOES BACK TO THE QUESTION OF STIMULATING OUR STATE ECONOMY. THERE ARE MANY ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES IN THIS BRIDGE THAT INCLUDE LIGHT RAIL, BIKE AND PATH, PATHWAYS THAT ARE A HUGE IMPROVEMENT OVER WHAT WE HAVE NOW. NOT TO MENTION WOULD PILING SEISMIC ISSUES. WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE BRIDGE. SO, THERE ARE SOME CONCERNS THAT, THAT YOU AND I HAVE DISCUSSED, AS WELL, THAT RELATE TO, TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS ABOUT DOWN THE STREAM, WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS DOWN THE STREAM FROM THE DIFFERENT INTERCHANGE, AND THAT HAS NOT BEEN DEALT WITH YET. I KNOW THAT THERE ARE PLANS TO -- YOU DO ONE PIECE OF THE PROJECT AND YOU HAVE TO KEEP PLANNING, AND SO I WOULD TRUST THAT THOSE PIECES OF THE PLAN WOULD BE PUT INTO PLACE QUICKLY. I THINK THAT THE -- I KNOW WE PUT A LOT OF MONEY INTO STUDYING THE BRIDGE, AND I DO THINK THAT THE QUESTIONS THAT ARE

STILL OUTSTANDING NEED TO BE ANSWERED AS WE GO FORWARD IN THIS BRIDGE. ANOTHER PIECE OF THIS IS, HOW ARE WE GOING TO FUND -- OUR STATE PIECE OF THE FUNDING WOULD BE ABOUT \$450 MILLION, PROBABLY, WHICH WOULD COME OUT OF A GAS TAX, IS THE MOST LIKELY FORMULA FOR US, SO WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THE FINANCING IN PLACE TO GO FORWARD. I THINK THAT THE -- THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS THAT STILL HAVE TO DO WITH THE SCALE AND THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT, BUT OVERALL, I AM IN FAVOR OF, OF MANY OF THE FEATURES ON THE CRC.

>> Comm. Smith: ALISSA, WHAT ABOUT THE DBE.

>> I'M SORRY, THANK YOU FOR ASKING ME THAT. I ABSOLUTELY SUPPORT THAT. WE NEED TO TARGET OUR PUBLIC DOLLARS WHERE THEY ARE MOST NEEDED AND, AND I APPLAUD THE WORK THAT YOU HAVE DONE TO GET THE PERCENTAGE UP TO 20%, TO THE SELLWOOD BRIDGE. I WOULD VIGOROUSLY ADVOCATE FOR THAT FOR THE CRC, AS WELL.

>> COMMISSIONER SMITH -- MY WORK HERE IS DONE. [ALARM SOUNDING]  
[LAUGHTER]

>> Comm. McKeel: WE ARE HAVING A LOT OF TROUBLE WITH THAT BUZZER, ROB.

>> COMMISSIONER SMITH, I THINK THE PUBLIC POLICY IS ABOUT MANY TIMES MAKING A CHOICE WITH THE INFORMATION THAT YOU HAVE IN FRONT OF YOU, AND YOU KNOW AHEAD OF TIME THAT THERE IS GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT CHOICE. I THINK UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, I MIGHT NOT BE AS SUPPORTIVE OF THE CRC. BUT GIVEN THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 10%, AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE OF 20%, AND A MINORITY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 17%, AND A MINORITY UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE OF ONE IN FOUR, THAT I DO SUPPORT THE COC BRIDGE FOR THAT REASON. RIGHT NOW IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT I CAN SEE TO INFUSE UP TO 25,000 JOBS. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT RIGHT NOW WHEN I TALK TO PEOPLE, OREGONIANS, THAT'S WHERE THEY ARE HURTING. THEY NEED MONEY. THEY NEED MONEY AND JOBS AND GOOD LIVING WAGES. IF YOU COULD INVEST IN INFRASTRUCTURE LIKE I SAID, YOU BRING MONEY INTO AN ECONOMY, AND THEN SMALL BUSINESSES AND SERVICE SECTORS CAN COMPETE WITH THOSE DOLLARS TO SUPPORT OTHER BUSINESS VENTURES. I THINK RIGHT NOW, THAT HAS TO BE, THAT HAS TO BE A PRIORITY FOR THE COUNTY AND FOR THE STATE. IT ABSOLUTELY -- I SUPPORT DBE. YOUR GOAL OF 20 IS OUTSTANDING. DCBS, THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES WOULD INVESTIGATE THOSE KINDS OF ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKFORCE OR WITH HIRING PRACTICES OF MINORITY AND WOMEN OWNED CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES, AND THAT'S SOMETHING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DOING FOR A LONG TIME, AND IT'S GREAT TO SEE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL, AS WELL.

>> Chair Cogen: THE NEXT QUESTION IS FOR, FROM COMMISSIONER SHIPRACK, AND BEGINNING WITH ALISSA KENY-GUYER.

>> Comm. Shiprack: WE HAVE TO STOP MEETING LIKE THIS. SO, I CAN GOING TO CHANGE THE SCOPE A LITTLE BIT. THERE IS A, A REALLY HUGE SORT OF BUMP IN THE DEMOGRAPHIC THAT'S COMING THROUGH RIGHT NOW THAT TELLS US THAT CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH, WITH TAKING CARE OF, OF THE GROWING POPULATION OF ELDERS ARE, ARE REALLY WITH US RIGHT NOW, AND WILL BE INCREASING. I ALSO HAVE TO POINT OUT THAT, THAT AT THIS TIME, CONGRESS IS TALKING ABOUT FUNDING CUTS IN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE AND, AND WE'RE STILL FEELING SHAKY FROM THE BIG CRASH OF PEOPLE WHOSE RETIREMENTS ARE WRAPPED UP IN 401-Ks ARE SHAKY, AND IN ADDITION TO THAT, THERE'S BEEN AN OUTCRY AGAINST PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS. KIND OF A PERFECT STORM HERE. I WONDER IF YOU COULD COMMENT ON THE CHALLENGES YOU SEE THAT ARE CURRENTLY FACING OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE CARE TO VULNERABLE ELDERLY, AND HOW YOU WOULD ADDRESS THOSE CHALLENGES.

>> THANK YOU. WELL, ON A NATIONAL LEVEL, I SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROTECT SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND IN THE DUAL INSTANCES OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID, I SUPPORT CONTINUING TO, TO TRY TO KEEP OUR SYSTEMS SOLVENT AND MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR OUR SENIORS WHO HAVE WORKED SO HARD FOR THOSE. AT A LOCAL LEVEL, I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY IN MAKING SURE THAT WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PROJECTS LIKE OREGON PROJECT INDEPENDENCE, THAT HELPS TO KEEP SENIORS IN THEIR HOMES, RATHER THAN WHERE THEY FALL AND END UP IN HOSPITALIZATION OR HAVE TO GO TO INSTITUTIONALIZED CARE. THERE ARE A LOT OF NONPROFIT PROGRAMS AND, AND, AND EFFORTS THAT, THAT ARE IN COMBINATION WITH THE PUBLIC SECTOR THAT, THAT, THAT REALLY CAN HELP SENIORS, ONE OF THOSE IS, IS JAY BLOOM'S COMMISSION HERE AT THE COUNTY ON AGING RIGHTLY, AND HOW DO YOU REALLY, REALLY MAKE SURE THAT SENIORS NOT ONLY HAVE THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES, BUT ARE CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY AND ABLE TO USE THEIR RESOURCES THAT THEY HAVE BUILT OVER THEIR LIFE TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. THERE IS A PROGRAM AT METROPOLITAN FAMILY SERVICES CALLED EXPERIENCE SERVICE CORE, THAT USES SENIORS TO GO INTO SCHOOLS, AND SO I THINK THE, THE, THE -- MAKING SURE THAT WE PROTECT SENIORS IN INVESTING IN THEM, BEING ABLE TO STAY IN THEIR HOMES, ALLOWING THEIR -- THE SAVINGS THAT THEY HAVE BUILT UP OVER THEIR LIFE TO BE SECURE AND, AND ALLOWING THEM OPPORTUNITIES TO REALLY CONTRIBUTE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY IS REALLY IMPORTANT. THANK YOU.

>> COMMISSIONER SHIPRACK, MY DAD WORKED FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR 35 YEARS, AND COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO THE PERCEPTION THAT THE PEOPLE HAVE OR SOME PEOPLE HAVE OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS, HE WAS THE HARDEST WORKING PERSON I HAVE EVER SEEN. EVERY DAY, GOT UP, DID HIS JOB, AS A BUREAUCRAT, AND HE DID NOT MAKE A LOT OF MONEY, AND THE RETIREMENT HE HAS IS DOING GOOD WORK WHILE HE WAS THERE AND, AND I DON'T SEE HOW WE HAVE COME TO THE POINT WHERE WE ARE DENIGRATING WORKERS FOR DOING A GOOD JOB AND FOR HAVING GOOD BENEFITS IN CONTRACTS THEY BARGAINED FOR LAWFULLY. WE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO HELP TO SUPPORT OTHER BUSINESSES TO, TO HAVE SIMILAR BENEFITS. IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT AS A MEMBER OF AFT MYSELF, A UNION MEMBER, I SUPPORT THAT. WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT THE UNION MOVEMENT IS WHAT STARTED THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN THIS STATE. THEY HAVE FUNDED COUNTLESS MEASURES AND PUSHBACK ATTACKS FROM CONSERVATIVE IDEOLOGUES, SO WE ARE SEEING DRAMATIC INCREASES. WITH THE, WHAT THE COUNTY DOES, AGING SERVICES IS A COMPONENT OF WHERE THE DOLLARS GO SO HAVING LEGISLATORS WHO ARE AWARE OF THE COSTS AND THE NEEDS FOR PEOPLE TO BE SAFE, TO BE PROTECTED, IF THEY HAVE TO GET CASES LEGALLY, THAT THEY ARE CARED FOR AND NOT ABUSED. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT AS WE AGE IN THIS COUNTRY, WE NEED TO BE MORE OPEN ABOUT. WE DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT DEATH AND DYING. WHEN WE DO, THE FAR RIGHT WANTS TO, TO GET ANGRY WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SAYING WE WANT TO KILL GRANDMA. WE NEED AN HONEST TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF LIFE, ESTATE PLANNING, AND CARE FOR PEOPLE IN A SMART AND REASONABLE WAY NOW.

>> THANK YOU FOR THAT QUESTION BECAUSE IT'S VERY PERSONAL FOR ME. MY MOTHER HAS HAD PARKINSON'S FOR 17 YEARS, AND IS IN A NURSING HOME, IN A NURSING HOME IN WASHINGTON, AND THANK GOD FOR MEDICARE. THANK GOD FOR THE TAXPAYERS. SO I AM VERY MUCH A PROPONENT, AS I SEE IT WORKING FOR MY FAMILY AND I SEE IT WORKING FOR SOMEONE WHO HAS SPENT HER LIFE WORKING. YOU KNOW, AS A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE, AND AS A, AS A LABOR PERSON, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE FALLACIES OUT THERE. I AM A PERS MEMBER, BUT, I CAN'T RETIRE WITH PERS. THOSE DAYS ARE GONE. I HAVE TO HAVE OTHER PLANS, AND OTHER SAVINGS, AND I WILL HAVE TO WORK LONGER, AND INDEED, THE THINGS THAT WE BARGAINED FOR RIGHTFULLY UNDER LAW, WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE. ALL OF US PAY FOR OUR INSURANCE NOW. IT'S -- THERE IS NOT A FREE RIDE IN RETIREMENT AND INSURANCE ANY MORE IF YOU ARE A PUBLIC SERVANT. I DON'T KNOW THAT THAT'S KNOWN, BUT I THINK THAT THIS HAS BEEN PART OF, WHEN I WAS TALKING ABOUT BARGAINING, AND WORKING WITH DIFFERENT GROUPS, THIS WAS PART OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER AND, AND UNDERSTANDING THAT, THAT EVERYWHERE, EVEN IN SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES, PEOPLE ARE PAYING THEIR PORTION IN HEALTH INSURANCE OR RETIREMENT BENEFITS, AND WE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WILL PAY OUR

PORTION, AS WELL. SO, I BELIEVE THAT PART OF THAT IS EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT IT, CONTINUING TO TALK ABOUT IT, AND AGAIN, THE TRANSPARENCY PIECE ABOUT IT, AND I HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND THE PASSION TO SUPPORT THESE PROGRAMS THAT ARE TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE LIKE MY MOTHER AND, AND THAT WE HAVE SPENT OUR TIME AND OUR, AND OUR, OUR INCOME PAYING INTO SOCIAL SECURITY WITH THE PLAN OF IT BEING THERE. YOU KNOW, IN SOME PLACES, IN SOME STATES, IF YOU ARE A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE, YOU DON'T GET TO REAP THE BENEFITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY, FOR EXAMPLE, AND THAT'S A PROBLEM. IF YOU PAY INTO SOCIAL SECURITY, EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EARN THE SOCIAL SECURITY, DEPENDING ON -- NOT DEPENDING, PERIOD. SO, I AM VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING TO, TO PUSH THAT AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL AND TALK ABOUT IT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

>> THE NEXT QUESTION IS FROM COMMISSIONER McKEEL AND BEGINS WITH ROB MILES NICK.

>> Comm. McKeel: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. MY QUESTION IS AROUND OUR VETERANS AND OUR MILITARY HERE IN THE STATE. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE MANY VETERANS. WE HAVE AN INCREASED NUMBER OF MILITARY COMING BACK FROM DEPLOYMENTS. WE HAVE NO PERMANENT BASIS -- BASES IN THE STATE, WE HAVE NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS OUT THERE. A LOT OF THE MONEY, A LOT OF THE SERVICES FOR THEM ARE PROVIDED THROUGH THE COUNTY. THE DOLLARS ARE COMING DOWN FROM THE STATE, BUT THERE IS OTHER SERVICES, CERTAINLY, THROUGH THE V.A. THAT, THAT THEY ARE ENTITLED TO. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOW YOU WOULD WORK AT THE STATE LEVEL TO MAKE SURE THAT THESE SERVICES ARE EASILY AVAILABLE. SOMETIMES IT IS DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE THE SYSTEM FOR OUR MILITARY COMING BACK FROM DEPLOYMENT AND OUR VETERANS.

>> COMMISSIONER McKEEL, THAT'S AN EXCELLENT QUESTION. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I THINK IS VERY UNIQUE ABOUT THE RECENT NATIONAL DEPLOYMENTS IS THAT WE ARE SEEING FEWER AND FEWER TROOPS THAT ARE COMING HOME WITH PHYSICAL INJURIES, ALTHOUGH IT'S STILL AROUND 8% TO 10%, BUT WE'RE SEEING ASTRONOMICAL RATES AND A POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER. MANY OF THE PEOPLE HAVE THIS. THERE IS NO, IT IS NO LONGER JUST MEN OR YOUNG MEN COMING BACK. THE BATTLEFIELD HAS BEEN SO CHANGED AND BROADENED THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WOMEN AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MEN THAT ARE COMING BACK. MOTHERS AND FATHERS. SO, FINDING WAYS TO GIVE THEM ACTUAL TREATMENT TO REINTEGRATE THEM BACK INTO THEIR COMMUNITIES, THEIR JOBS, EDUCATION, AND FINDING WAYS TO SUPPORT THEM THAT SAYS, WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, AND WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPT POSSIBLE CHANGES THAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU, PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND THAT WE ARE WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU AS A STATE, A LOCAL, AND TO MAKE YOU A MEMBER OF OUR



COMMUNITY ONCE AGAIN. WHETHER WE HAVE TO CREATE AN ACTUAL DEPARTMENT TO HELP FACILITATE THESE SERVICES, I WOULD BE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF THAT, OR IF WE HAVE TO RETOOL VETERANS AFFAIRS AND MAKE IT SO THAT IT'S MORE RESPONSIVE TO PEOPLE WHEN THEY ACCESS AND, AND CAN FIND INFORMATION ABOUT RESOURCES, THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WE NEED TO DO. BUT THEY HAVE PAID A PRICE, AND THEY HAVE SACRIFICED, AND WE HAVE TO BE AWARE THAT THEY ARE COMING BACK WITH DIFFERENT INJURIES AND SCARS THAN THEY USED TO FROM THE WAR'S PAST.

>> THANK YOU FOR THIS QUESTION. MY TWO BROTHERS, I HAVE TWO SIBLINGS, BOTH BROTHERS, AND BOTH VETERANS. SO, THIS IS AN ISSUE CLOSE TO MY HEART. MY OLDEST BROTHER HAD SEVEN TOURS OF DUTY IN THE MIDEAST BEFORE HE RETIRED. SO, THIS IS A CONVERSATION THAT I HAVE HAD WITH HIM MANY TIMES. I THINK THAT THE AVAILABILITY AND THE ACCESS IS OF PREMIUM IMPORTANCE, AND CALLING A SPADE A SPADE, AS THIS ISSUE WITH MENTAL HEALTH, WHICH IS THE BIGGEST ISSUE CURRENTLY. IT GOES RIGHT INTO WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT, ABOUT THE COUNTY SERVICES AND, AND THE PREEMPTIONS THAT HAVE HAPPENED THAT HAVE TO BE CHANGED. I WAS READING AN ARTICLE ABOUT WOMEN IN THE MILITARY, AND THE MULTIPLE LEVELS OF MENTAL ILLNESS THEY ARE SUFFERING FROM BECAUSE NOT ONLY OF GOING TO WAR, BUT THE WAR GOING ON WITHIN OUR RANKS, OF BEING A WOMAN WHO IS SERVING AND THE HARASSMENT THAT HAPPENS, AND THAT'S A LIGHT WORD FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE WOMEN IN OUR MILITARY. SO, IT'S VERY MUCH A PART OF WHAT I THINK WE NEED TO BE AS A STATE AND WHAT I THINK WE NEED TO BE AS CITIZENS WHO, NOT ONLY SUPPORT OUR VETERANS, BUT THAT -- THE ACCESS IS AVAILABLE AND OPEN, AND IT'S ONLY BEEN RECENTLY VERY RECENTLY AND NOT EVERYWHERE, THAT, THAT THESE PARTICULAR WOMEN I'M TALKING ABOUT HAVE EVEN HAD A LABEL, ASSIGNED TO THE TRAUMA GOING ON SO THAT THEY COULD, ACTUALLY, GET HELP. THERE WAS NO ABILITY TO DO THAT TWO YEARS PREVIOUS TO NOW. SO, I THINK AGAIN, IT'S THE -- IT'S TALKING ABOUT IT, CALLING A SPADE A SPADE, AND SEEING WHAT IT IS, AND ADVOCATING FOR IT, AND I AM COMPLETELY IN FAVOR OF THAT.

>> COMMISSIONER McKEEL, I AM ALSO IN FAVOR OF THAT. WE NEED TO HONOR OUR VETERANS THAT CAME BACK, THE G.I. BILL, AFTER WORLD WAR II, MADE A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN LIFTING A LOT OF THE VETERANS INTO THE ABILITY TO STUDY, GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY, CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMY. WE NEED THAT KIND OF CONCERTED EFFORT NOW TO, TO PROVIDE EDUCATION BENEFITS, HOUSING, MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND OTHERS. SOME OF THIS IS TIED TO THE HEALTH TRANSFORMATION REFORM BECAUSE SO MANY OF OUR SERVICES ARE VERY FRAGMENTED, SO IF THEY COME BACK AND THEY ARE TRYING TO FIND THE SERVICES AND THEY HAVE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE NEEDS, THEY HAVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS, A VARIETY OF NEEDS, THE NEW HEALTH TRANSFORMATION BILL THAT

MANAGES PATIENT CENTER CARE IN COORDINATED CARE ORGANIZATIONS, WILL, WILL BE ABLE TO HELP VETERANS ACCESS THE SERVICES THAT THEY NEED, SO THERE IS A CONFLUENCE OF DIFFERENT THINGS THAT ARE HAPPENING NOW THAT, THAT CAN HELP OUR VETERANS. I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR, FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE STANDDOWN THAT JUST HAPPENED WITH THE VETERANS. SO YOU HAVE THIS.

>> Chair Cogen: THE NEXT QUESTION IS FROM ME, AND IT BEGINS WITH TRISHA PARKS, AND IT WILL BE A DIFFERENT DIRECTION. I, IN THE WEEK LEADING UP TO THIS, REACHED OUT TO FOLKS IN THE COMMUNITY AND ASKED THEM WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS THEY WOULD LIKE TO HERE, AND I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WITH THE RESPONSE. FIRST I GOT A LOT OF RESPONSES, WHICH WAS NICE BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE INTERESTED, BUT THE BIGGEST THING THAT PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WASN'T ABOUT YOUR RESPONSES TO POLICY ISSUES OR TO ANY PARTICULAR SPECIFIC PROGRAM THAT MIGHT EXIST. REALLY, AND I WILL TRY AND COORDINATE THESE INTO ONE. I APOLOGIZE IF IT'S NOT ARTFUL. BEING IN GOVERNMENT IS DIFFICULT IN GOOD TIMES. BEING IN THE LEGISLATURE IS CHALLENGING IN GOOD TIMES. THESE ARE REALLY BAD TIMES. YOU ARE GOING TO BE FACED WITH MAKING INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT DECISIONS, AND YOU ARE GOING TO WIND UP HAVING NO CHOICE BUT TO CHOOSE AMONG WHO YOU GET TO PISS OFF THAT YOU REALLY LIKE. WHY IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU WANT THIS JOB? TO BE MORE SPECIFIC, TELL US A BIT MORE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR LIFE STORY AND YOUR VALUES AND YOUR HISTORY THAT WOULD LEAD YOU TO GO THROUGH THIS FOR A JOB THAT IS SO PROFOUNDLY CHALLENGING.

>> THANK YOU FOR THAT. DON'T FORGET I TEACH MIDDLE SCHOOL. IT'S PRETTY SIMILAR. NO, IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, I SHARED THIS BEFORE, SO SORRY CANDIDATES YOU HAVE HEARD THIS, MY MOTHER ASKED ME, SHE CALLED ME, AND SHE SAID WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? AND IT WAS -- AND AS SOMEONE WHO IS ON A POLITICALLY DIFFERENT SCOPE THAN I AM, I WAS NOT SURE WHERE SHE WAS COMING FROM, AND THEN I REALIZED THAT I JUST NEEDED TO EXPRESS TO HER THE VALUE SYSTEM THAT SHE PROBABLY DIDN'T REALIZE THAT SHE PUT INTO ME. I TEAR UP OVER AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL. SO HERE I AM A HISTORY TEACHER, AND WORKING IN BEING A POLITICAL, A PUBLIC SERVANT AND WORKING IN POLITICS BECAUSE IF YOU ARE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION, YOU ARE IN POLITICS. AND RECOGNIZING WHEN I WAS SITTING ON THE BOARDS OF OREGON EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, BASIC RIGHTS OREGON, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS THE TEACHER ADVISOR, THE GAY AND LESBIAN STRAIGHT AND EDUCATION NETWORK, THAT, THAT IT MATTERS, THE DECISIONS THAT WE MAKE, AND THE POLICIES THAT WE MAKE, AND THE ACTIONS THAT WE TAKE, AND THE WORK THAT WE DO. IT REALLY MATTERS WHEN YOU CAN MOVE INTO A POSITION, AND YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO ADVOCATE FOR THEM, AND YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO BE SOMEBODY'S VOICE WHEN THEY COME TO YOU. I GOT THE CHANCE TO DO THAT. THAT WAS SO EMPOWERING, SO WHEN I GOT THE PHONE CALL ABOUT

WOULD I BE INTERESTED IN THIS POSITION, AND I HAD NEIGHBORS TALKING TO ME AND I HAD BASIC RIGHTS OREGON TALKING TO ME AND TEACHERS TALKING TO ME, AND I SAID, ABSOLUTELY I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS BECAUSE I TALK ABOUT THIS ALL THE TIME TO MY FRIENDS WHETHER THEY WANT TO HEAR IT ANYWAY. I WANT TO TALK TO PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO LISTEN AND WHERE WE CAN REALLY GET SOMETHING DONE. I HAVE FELT ALIVE AND EXCITED. THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN AMAZING, IT HAS FELT PURE, IT HAS FELT LIKE WE REALLY GET TO SPEAK FROM OUR HEART AND WE REALLY GET TO SPEAK FROM OUR EXPERIENCE, AND WE ARE HAVING PEOPLE MAKING DECISIONS BASED ON THAT, NOT WHO HAS THE SNAPPIEST COMMERCIAL ON TV, AND IT HAS FELT GREAT, AND I HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY ENLIVENED BY IT. I THINK THAT MY ABILITY TO MULTI-TASK, ALL OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE DONE IN THE COMMUNITY AND ALL OF THE BOARDS THAT I HAVE SAT ON AND ALL OF THE WORK THAT I HAVE DONE HAVE BEEN WHILE I AM A FULL-TIME TEACHER. WHEN I'M IN THE LEGISLATURE, LEGISLATURE, IT WILL BE THE SAME THING. I WILL HAVE THIS CONDUIT OF INFORMATION TO PARENTS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, STUDENTS, AND IT WILL BE INSTANT ACCESS, AND THAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME.

>> Chair Cogen: THANK YOU.

>> WELL, THANK YOU. I HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TO, TO CLOSING DISPARITIES MY ENTIRE LIFE, I GREW UP IN A FAMILY THAT WAS VERY POLITICALLY ENGAGED. WE WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE RESOURCES. MY FATHER RAN A PROGRAM CALLED SAVE THE CHILDREN, AND MY MOTHER WORKED IN A FOUNDATION THAT, THAT DEALT WITH DOMESTIC ISSUES, SO I GREW UP BEING ABLE TO SEE THE POVERTY BOTH AROUND THE WORLD AND IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY, AND FEELING REALLY TORN ABOUT THAT, MYSELF. ONE OF MY EARLIEST EXPERIENCES WAS TRAVELING TO SEE SAVE THE CHILDREN PROJECTS IN INDIA, AT 12 YEARS OLD, AND BEING TAKEN THROUGH, THROUGH A REFUGEE CAMP WHERE PEOPLE WERE THRUSTING THEIR KIDS INTO MY ARMS SAYING, PLEASE TAKE THIS, THIS CHILD BACK TO AMERICA, AND REALIZING THAT, THAT SO MANY OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE HAVE IN LIFE ARE BY FATE, BY VIRTUE OF WHERE WE'RE BORN, AND THE COLOR OF OUR SKIN. THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE HAVE, THE EDUCATION THAT WE HAVE. THIS HAS ALWAYS STAYED WITH ME, ALL OF MY LIFE, SO EVERY DECISION THAT I HAVE MADE IN MY CAREER, IN MY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, IN WHO I CHOSE TO MARRY, HAVE ALL REFLECTED THIS, THIS DEEP DESIRE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND TO CLOSE THOSE KIND OF DISPARITIES SO WHEN I SEE A DISPARITY, FOR INSTANCE, CHILDREN WHO DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO CHILDCARE, AND I UNDERSTAND HOW THAT MEANS THAT THEY ENTER KINDERGARTEN NOT READY TO LEARN, AND THEY DON'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO HAVE LIVABLE WAGE JOBS, I HAVE WORKED ON THOSE ISSUES, I HAVE TRIED TO HELP CHILDCARE CENTERS THROUGH, THROUGH A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT PROGRAMS. HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO SCALE UP, I WAS -- I WORKED ON THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY COMMISSION

WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT BROADEN UNIVERSITY FOLKS AND FOUNDATION FOLKS AND THE STATE AND THE COUNTY TO, TO DESIGN A CHILDCARE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR THE ENTIRE STATE, AND THIS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CHILDCARE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE STATE. SO SEEING PROBLEMS AT A LOCAL LEVEL, UNDERSTANDING HOW, HOW HARD IT IS FOR SOME TO HAVE THOSE OPPORTUNITIES, AND THEN TO BE ABLE TO SCALE UP TO A STATEWIDE POLICY LEVEL THAT CAN AFFECT MORE PEOPLE IS, IS SOMETHING THAT, THAT I HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO. I AM AT A POINT IN MY LIFE WITH HAVING THREE CHILDREN, DOWN TO ONE, WHERE I CAN DEVOTE MY FULL TIME AND ENERGY TO MAKING THOSE CHANGES. THANK YOU.

>> CHAIR COGEN, I AM WHEN I WAS ABOUT 14, I ASKED MY DAD, HOW DOES SOMEBODY GET INVOLVED IN PUBLIC OFFICE. HE HAD NO IDEA. MY FAMILY WERE CATTLE RANCHERS IN MONTANA, AND HE SAID I THINK YOU FIRST FIND OUT WHAT PARTY YOU ARE. YOU FIND A SET OF BELIEFS THAT YOU SHARE A COMMONALITY WITH. AND THEY WERE REPUBLICANS, AND I LOOKED AT BOTH AND I CAME BACK A COUPLE DAYS, AND I SAID DAD, I'M AN ABSOLUTE DEMOCRAT, AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT YOU NEED TO BE DEMOCRAT, TOO. AND, AND WE GOT TO TALKING ABOUT THIS, AND I REALIZED A COUPLE THINGS, ONE, THAT HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A DEMOCRAT AND HE IS NOW, MY WHOLE FAMILY HAS BEEN DEMOCRAT EVER SINCE, AND TWO, THAT, THAT I'M A GOOD AND A STRONG ADVOCATE, AND WHEN I LATCH ONTO AN IDEA AND AM, IMPASSIONED ABOUT SOMETHING, I BELIEVE I CAN PERSUADE PEOPLE TO DO WHAT I THOUGHT WERE RIGHT, AND THAT WAS AN EARLY EXAMPLE AND WHAT LED ME TO LAW SCHOOL, THIS IDEA THAT, THAT THROUGH WORDS AND BY SPEECH, BY PASSION, YOU CAN CONVINCE PEOPLE OF WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG, AND TRY TO, PRIVATEER INSTILL A SENSE OF COMMUNITY VALUE. I'M SOMEBODY THAT, THAT IS VERY UPSET WHEN I SEE INJUSTICE, BULLIES IN THE ACTUAL, PHYSICAL SENSE, BUT ALSO IN JUST, JUST AN EVERY DAY REALITY, AND IT HAPPENS THROUGHOUT OUR, OUR DAILY LIVES SO OFTEN THAT WE HAVE KIND OF BEGUN TO TURN A BLIND EYE TO IT. WE SEE MOMENTS OF INJUSTICE, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT. THIS IS SOMETHING WHERE, WHERE EITHER ONE OF US CAN DO SOMETHING TANGIBLE ABOUT IT, AND THERE IS -- THERE IS LITTLE MONEY INVOLVED IN IT, IT'S -- THE STATE IS IN A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC TURMOIL, AND YOU HAVE GOT TO COMMUTE DOWN TO SALEM AT 6:00 IN THE MORNING TO GET THERE BY 8:00 FOR HEARINGS, BUT IT'S SOMETHING IF YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT THAT FIGHT AND PASSIONATE ABOUT EQUALITY, AND YOU FEEL AND BELIEVE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND VOLUNTARY EQUITY FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE THAT ABILITY AND DON'T HAVE THAT CHOICE, AND PERHAPS ARE NOT AWARE THAT THEY HAVE TO ADVOCATE IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT'S A LOGICAL CONCLUSION TO BE THERE, TO FIGHT FOR THOSE PEOPLE, AND THAT'S WHY I WANT THIS POSITION.

>> Chair Cogen: AT THIS POINT, ARE THERE OTHER QUESTIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS, WOULD LIKE TO ASK?

>> I DO WANT TO RAISE A POINT OF CONTENTION, ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE RUN FOR THE LEGISLATURE ARE SOME HOW CRAZY?

>> Chair Cogen: ANY POLITICIAN HAS TO BE OUT OF THEIR MIND. IT'S US, TOO. [LAUGHTER]

>> WE MIGHT HAVE A PROBLEM.

>> Chair Cogen: ARE THERE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS? OK. SO AT THIS POINT, WE WILL GO THROUGH -- EACH COMMISSIONER WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A SAME, AND CAST THEIR VOTE BEGINNING WITH DISTRICT 1.

>> Comm. Shiprack: I HAVE AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION.

>> Chair Cogen: ABSOLUTELY. COMMISSIONER, SHIPRACK, PLEASE.

>> Comm. Shiprack: ALL THREE OF YOU ARE REALLY DEDICATED, AND WE'RE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME VETTING THIS, AND I THINK ONE OF THE THINGS THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU, MR. CHAIR, SAY YOU KNOW, YOU GET TO THE POINT WHERE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO PISS OFF SOME PEOPLE YOU REALLY RESPECT A LOT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT, THAT VERY SHORTLY, ALL FIVE OF US HERE ARE GOING TO BE AT THAT POINT, EXACTLY, SO YOU WILL HAVE AN EXHIBIT A TO REFER TO. BUT, THIS IS ALL, ALL AROUND ONE VERY SHORT, WHAT WE USED TO CALL SPECIAL SESSION, WHICH IS NOW A REGULAR ANNUAL SESSION, BUT IT'S SHORT. MY QUESTION IS, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR, FOR, FOR THE FUTURE FOR YOUR CAREER.

>> Chair Cogen: BEGINNING WITH ALISSA KENY-GUYER AT THIS POINT.

>> IF I GET THE APPOINTMENT, I WILL, SEAR, IF I GET THE APPOINTMENT TODAY, I WILL FILE TOMORROW, AND RUN AN ELECTION TO TRY TO HOLD THE SEAT BOTH IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY IN MAY, AS WELL AS THE GENERAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER. I WILL BALANCE THAT WITH, WITH, WITH DOING THE BEST JOB THAT I CAN IN THE SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME THAT WE HAVE IN THE FEBRUARY SESSION TO PASS THE GOALS, PARTICULARLY, AROUND REVITALIZING THE ECONOMY, TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE, AND INVESTING IN THE ZERO TO 20 NEW EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION.

>> COMMISSIONER SHIPRACK, I WILL ALSO FILE AND RUN IF I WERE TO GET THIS APPOINTMENT, AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I THINK THAT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER IS THAT THIS DISTRICT WILL CHANGE IN 2012. IT'S EXPANDING EAST AND IT'S EXPANDING SOUTH, AND SO THE DEMOGRAPHICS

ARE GOING TO SHIFT, SO WHATEVER GETS THIS APPOINTMENT WILL HAVE TO VERY QUICKLY LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN THAT CAN HOLD A DEMOCRATIC SEAT, BUT THERE IS NO ASSUMPTION OR A GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL STAY DEMOCRATIC. WE JUST SAW IN NEW YORK IN THE NINTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, A HOUSE SEAT THAT WENT REPUBLICAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 88 YEARS. SO, IT WILL TAKE SOMEBODY WHO CAN QUICKLY AND VERY PASSIONATELY AND VERY EFFECTIVELY RUN A CAMPAIGN AND WIN THIS, THIS SEAT. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT I INTEND TO DO. I WILL CONTINUE MY LAW PRACTICE, I WILL CONTINUE RAISING OUR SON, WHO IS JUST ABOUT TEN MONTHS OLD, AND I WILL, AND I WILL BE IN THE LEGISLATURE, SOMETHING THAT I AM, I AM FULLY COMMITTED TO.

>> Chair Cogen: THANK YOU.

>> I, TOO, PLAN ON RUNNING. I, TOO, THINK THAT AS A PERSON WHO WORKS DAILY IN AND AMONG MY COMMUNITY, I WOULD HAVE A RESIDENCE WITH THE NEW DISTRICT. I THOUGHT OF THAT AS PART OF THIS DEAL, WAS, THIS IS NOT A SHORT-TERM PLAN, IT'S A LINEMEN PLAN OF SERVICE. I DON'T HAVE -- I'M NOT LOOKING AT ANYTHING BEYOND THIS SEAT. I AM LOOKING AT THIS SEAT. HOWEVER, NEXT SPRING, IF ONE OF THE APPOINTMENTS IS, IS ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES HERE, I THINK THAT THEY ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO, WHO HAVE HAD GREAT THINGS TO SAY, AND I DON'T HAVE A PLAN ON, ON RUNNING AGAINST THEM IN THE PRIMARY BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE WHAT, WHAT THEY CAN BRING FORTH. SO, YOU WILL SEE ME AGAIN, BUT NOT THERE.

>> Chair Cogen: ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM THE OTHER COMMISSIONERS? IN THAT CASE, COMMISSIONER KAFOURY.

>> THANK YOU. FIRST I WANT TO SAY THAT WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE OTHERS WHO HAVE COME BEFORE US, THIS IS OUR FOURTH TIME CHOOSING A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE, SO WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE OTHERS, I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE MOST IMPRESSIVE GROUP THAT WE HAVE HAD. IT'S REALLY A DIFFICULT DECISION. I APPRECIATE THE CONVERSATION THAT WE HAVE HAD THIS MORNING. I CAN REALLY FEEL YOUR PASSION, AND I APPRECIATE AND VALUE THE EXPERIENCE THAT YOU BRING TO THIS. ALSO, I VALUE AND APPRECIATE THE INVOLVEMENT THAT EACH OF YOU HAVE HAD IN YOUR COMMUNITIES, AND I AM GLAD TO HEAR YOU WILL CONTINUE TO DO THAT EVEN AFTER THE VOTE TODAY. I DID WANT TO SOMETHING ELSE THAT TRISHA SAID, YOU FEEL LIKE THIS IS A PEER PROCESS. I CAN SAY, AND I SPEAK FOR, FOR THE OTHERS ON THE BOARD, THAT WE CAME, WE CAME INTO THIS DECISION TODAY WITH OPEN MINDS, AND I HAVE RECEIVED SO MANY PHONE CALLS, I MEAN, EVEN AT THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND THIS MORNING DROPPING OFF MY CHILDREN, SOMEONE CAME AND TOLD ME THEIR OPINION. SO, PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY FEEL REALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT THIS, AND SO MANY PEOPLE HAVE CALLED AND E-MAILED AND TEXTED, AND I GOT ONE AT 6:00 THIS MORNING, AND I JUST

COULDN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE SO KEYED INTO THIS RACE, AND SO, I DID, AS I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES, REALLY TRIED TO COME AT THIS WITH AN OPEN MIND AND HOW DO I MAKE THIS DECISION OF WHO I WILL SUPPORT. AND I GUESS TO ME, IT'S COME DOWN TODAY TO MY EXPERIENCE AND, AND, IN WORKING WITH AND MEETING EACH OF YOU AND WORKING WITH YOU, AND THAT IS WHY TODAY I AM GOING TO CAST MY VOTE FOR ALISSA. I HAVE HAD THE, THE REALLY AMAZING EXPERIENCE OF WORKING WITH HER ON THE PORTLAND CHILDREN'S LEVY BOARD, AND WATCHING HER AND TALKING WITH HER AS SHE MAKES DECISIONS, THAT I DON'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH, CRADLE TO CAREER, LET ME MENTION, AND WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS AGREED ON THINGS, AND YET I THINK THAT THE WAY THAT YOU APPROACH YOUR DECISION-MAKING AND YOUR VALUES AROUND DIVERSITY AND, AND HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE REALLY TIE INTO WHAT WE DO HERE AT MULTNOMAH COUNTY, AND WHILE AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW THE OUTCOME TODAY AND WILL BE PLEASED AND HAPPY TO SUPPORT WHOEVER IS CHOSEN TODAY, I AM GOING TO VOTE FOR ALISSA, THANK YOU.

>> Chair Cogen: THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER SMITH.

>> Comm. Smith: THANK YOU, AS COMMISSIONER KAFOURY SAID, I THINK THAT WE ALL DID COME IN WITH AN OPEN MIND, AND I KNEW NO ONE ON THE PANEL. THANK YOU, CHAIR COGEN, FOR PUTTING THIS TOGETHER. I HAVE OBSERVED THIS PROCESS A NUMBER OF TIMES, PROBABLY THE THREE PREVIOUS TIMES THAT WE WERE HERE, AND NEVER FROM, FROM THIS SIDE OF THE, YOU KNOW, THE MIC. I APPLAUD THE THREE OF YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THIS POSITION. AS PROGRESSIVES, I THINK THAT WE'RE GENERALLY OPPOSED TO JOBS THAT PAY A WHOLE LOT. WE OFTEN OPERATE UNDER SOME, SOME, SOMETIMES TERRIBLE WORKING CONDITIONS THAT INVOLVE FREQUENT CARBON-CONSUMING TRIPS DOWN THE INTERSTATE, AND NOT TO MENTION LITTLE RECOGNITION FOR THE DIFFICULT WORK AND LATE NIGHT PHONE CALLS ON A WIDE RANGE OF PROBLEMS INCLUDING SCHOOLS, LAND USE, TAXES AND POTHOLES. AND AFTER THAT DESCRIPTION, I AM SURPRISED THAT ANY OF YOU WANT THIS JOB. WE ARE TRULY FORTUNATE TO HAVE ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY BECAUSE YOU ARE ALL GREAT CANDIDATES. THREE CITIZENS WILLING TO PUT EVERYTHING ON THE LINE TO, TO SERVE THE PUBLIC. I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU, ALISSA, FOR ALL THE -- ALL THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE IN THE COMMUNITY, FROM WORKING WITH THE SATURDAY SCHOOLS TO, TO VERNONIA, FLOODS, AND I KNOW THAT VERY WELL FROM WORKING WITH SENATOR WYDEN, AND I THINK THAT IT'S GREAT THAT, THAT WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO CAN STEP UP LIKE THAT. ROB, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR, YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE, YOU KNOW. I LIKE THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE DONE, AND I LIKE THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED IN, AND THE ENERGY AND PASSION THAT YOU HAVE FOR WHAT YOU DO. I WISH THAT I HAD HALF YOUR ENERGY ON SOME OF THESE ISSUES. I TRULY BELIEVE THAT YOUR PASSION AND YOUR PUBLIC SERVICE WOULD SERVE THE CITIZENS OF, OF HOUSE DISTRICT 46.

TRISHA, THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE IN THE OREGON HOUSE AS A TEACHER. I KNOW THAT YOU COULD PROBABLY HANDLE A LOT OF THE ROWDINESS THAT GOES DOWN IN SALEM BECAUSE YOU ARE A MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER. AS DIFFICULT AS THIS DECISION IS, I KNOW THAT, THAT I WILL SLEEP WELL TONIGHT KNOWING THAT, THAT HOUSE DISTRICT 46 WOULD BE WELL SERVED BY ANY ONE OF YOU, BUT I CAST MY VOTE FOR ALISSA KENY-GUYER THIS AFTERNOON, THIS MORNING.

>> Chair Cogen: THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER SHIPRACK.

>> Comm. Shiprack: THANK YOU. WHILE I JOIN IN MY COLLEAGUES IN ACKNOWLEDGING THE, THE HARD WORK, LOW PAY, AND MISERABLE WORKING CONDITIONS, YOU ARE ALL HERE COMPETING MIGHTILY FOR, AND I ALSO HAVE TO JOIN MY, MY TWO COLLEAGUES IN ACKNOWLEDGING HOW, HOW PASSIONATE AND, AND WELL PREPARED AND, AND ARTICULATE ALL THREE OF YOU ARE. I WISH -- HERE'S MY ONLY WISH IS THAT THERE WERE 31 OF YOU IN THE HOUSE, THE OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RIGHT NOW. [APPLAUSE]

>> 36.

>> Comm. Shiprack: 36 WOULD BE EVEN BETTER, THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR THE REMINDER, I AM KIND OF AN OLD-TIMER, I GUESS. THANK YOU FOR THAT REMINDER, AS WELL COMMISSIONER KAFOURY AND, AND I HAVE ISSUES WE'LL WORK OUT. I WANT TO, TO -- AND I NEED TO GIVE YOU A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON, AS WELL, BECAUSE YOU ARE ALL THREE OF YOU, ALSO MY CONSTITUENTS IN DISTRICT 3. BUT, THIS IS MY HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE SEAT THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. THIS DISTRICT WITH DIFFERENT NAMES BECAUSE OF REDISTRICTING, HAS BEEN REPRESENTED SO CAPABLY BY RICK GUSTAFSON, BY EARL BLUMENAUER, BY KATE BROWN AND BY STEVE MARCH, AMONG OTHERS. SO, AS WELL AS, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIVE BAUMAN, WHO, WHO WAS, WAS, YOU KNOW, BEFORE I, I ENTERED THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM. SO, SO I AM JUST -- I JUST HAVE TO SAY THAT I AM VERY PROUD -- I AM VERY PROUD OF ALL OF YOU. I AM VERY IMPRESSED BY ALL OF YOU. I WANT TO MAKE A SPECIFIC COMMENT TO YOU, TRISHA. I REMEMBER SO WELL -- I JUST SAW THAT GAIL SHIPLEY'S NAME WAS IN YOUR LITERATURE, AND I REMEMBER THAT APPOINTMENT VERY, VERY WELL. I ALSO HAVE TO SAY ROB, JUST, JUST FELT LIKE MILES AND MILES AND MILES ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, AND OF COURSE, THERE ARE MANY MILES OF CAMPAIGN TRAIL STRETCHING AHEAD OF ALL OF US, OF ALL OF US, AND THERE IS LOTS AND LOTS OF HARD WORK YET TO BE DONE. ALL THAT BEING SAID, I AM GOING TO CAST MY VOTE FOR ALISSA KENY-GUYER THIS MORNING.

>> Chair Cogen: COMMISSIONER McKEEL.



>> Comm. McKeel: THANK YOU. WHAT CAN I SAY, THEY HAVE SAID IT ALL. YOU ALL -- YOU ALL HAVE DONE GREAT TODAY AND REACHED OUT TO US AND WOULD BE GREAT -- YOU ALL WOULD BE GREAT REPRESENTATIVES. I ACKNOWLEDGE AND APPLAUD YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT FORWARD, AND I THINK THIS HOUSE DISTRICT WILL BE WELL, WELL REPRESENTED. I KANSAS MY VOTE TODAY FOR ROB MILES NICK.

>> Chair Cogen: OKAY. AND I AM LAST. I ADMIT THE DRAMA IS GONE BY THE TIME IT GETS TO ME, BUT, I DO WANT TO REITERATE WHAT MY COLLEAGUES AND THE BOARD HAVE SAID, WHICH IS THAT WE ARE TRULY LUCKY TO HAVE THREE SUCH TALENTED PEOPLE BEING WILLING TO STEP FORWARD TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY. HAVING GROWN UP IN ANOTHER COMMUNITY IN MIAMI, IN FLORIDA, I CAN TELL YOU WITH ALL SINCERITY THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A MINOR MIRACLE TO HAVE ANY ONE OF YOU AT ANY TIME BEING WILLING TO SERVE IN THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE. I ALSO WANT TO JUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE'RE FORTUNE TO HAVE SUCH AN ENGAGED COMMUNITY. THE FOLKS WHO TOOK TIME OUT FROM WORK THIS MORNING TO JOIN US HERE AND THE HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE WEIGHED IN, AS WELL, WITH THEIR DEEP CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS COMMUNITY. WHILE THESE ARE REALLY, REALLY DIFFICULT TIMES, I DO THINK THAT OUR ACE IN THE HOLE IS THE PEOPLE IN THIS COMMUNITY CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THE FUTURE, AND AT THE END OF THE DAY, THAT'S WHAT IT WILL TAKE, US COMING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THESE PROBLEMS. LIKE MY COLLEAGUES, WHILE THIS IS A VERY, VERY DIFFICULT DECISION, AND WHILE THIS IS A DECISION THAT I WEIGHED VERY CAREFULLY, IT WAS ALSO IN SOME SENSE AN EASY DECISION BECAUSE I DO KNOW THAT REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE OUTCOME WOULD HAVE BEEN TODAY, WE WERE GOING TO HAVE A TERRIFIC CANDIDATE STEP IN TO, TO REPRESENT HOUSE DISTRICT 46. AT THE END OF THE DAY, I AM ALSO GOING TO BE VOTING FOR ALISSA KENY-GUYER, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF YOUR BROAD AND DEEP SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY ON BEHALF OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, BUT, BUT I JUST WANT TO BE REALLY CLEAR, ROB AND TRISHA, YOU ARE TERRIFIC CANDIDATES AND, AND IF THE VOTES HAD COME OUT DIFFERENTLY, I KNOW THAT EVERYONE IN THIS COMMUNITY WOULD KNOW THAT YOU WOULD DO A WONDERFUL JOB IN THE LEGISLATURE, AND I HOPE THAT, THAT BOTH OF YOU STAY ENGAGED AND CONTINUE BECAUSE WE NEED PEOPLE LIKE YOU IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN THE STATE. SO, THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH. AT THIS POINT, I WOULD, I WOULD ENTERTAIN A MOTION TO APPOINT ALISSA KENY-GUYER TO FILL THE VACANCY IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR HOUSE DISTRICT 46. CAN I GET A MOTION?

>> SO MOVE.

>> SECOND.

>> Chair Cogen: COMMISSIONER KAFOURY MOVES AND SHIPRACK SECONDS THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR, VOTE AYE. OPPOSED. THE MOTION CARRIES AND THE RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED. ALISSA, I WOULD INVITE YOU TO MAKE SOME BRIEF COMMENTS IN YOUR NEW POSITION AS APPOINTED STATE REPRESENTATIVE.

>> THANK YOU, CHAIR COGEN AND COMMISSIONERS. I AM VERY HONORED TO TAKE ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY, AND I WANT TO THANK FIRST AND FOREMOST THE, THE TWO CANDIDATES BY MY SIDE AND THE OTHER THREE, AND AT ONE POINT FOUR, THAT HAD PUT THEIR NAMES FORWARD TO ENTER THIS PROCESS. IT HAS BEEN A REALLY INTENSE LAST FIVE WEEKS. I HAVE LEARNED A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT ABOUT, ABOUT PEOPLE'S CONCERNS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD. IT WAS TAKING LIKE A NINE-MONTH CAMPAIGN AND COMpressing IT INTO ONE, AND I HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO WORK WITH SO MANY OF YOU INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS, AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HAD THE CHANCE TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROCESS TO REALLY TACKLE THE TOUGH ISSUES AHEAD OF US. WE HAVE A LOT ON THE PLATE IN THE FEBRUARY LEGISLATURE, AND WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TOGETHER TO, TO WORK ON THESE ISSUES. THESE TWO NEXT TO ME HAVE INCREDIBLE VOICES. I HAVE JUST BEEN IN AWE AT HOW ARTICULATE AND PASSIONATE YOU HAVE BEEN BOTH, AND I HOPE THAT WE CAN ALL RALLY TOGETHER TO MAKE OREGON A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL OREGONIANS, FROM MULTNOMAH COUNTY FOLKS, AND FOR THE WONDERFUL DISTRICT OF HOUSE DISTRICT 46. THANK YOU.

>> Chair Cogen: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THIS SPECIAL MEETING IS ADJOURNED. [APPLAUSE]

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

This transcript was prepared by LNS Captioning and edited by the Board Clerk's office. For access to the video and/or board packet materials, please view at:

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Submitted by:

Lynda J. Grow, Board Clerk and  
Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners  
Multnomah County