



Metro | Making a great place

February 3, 2012

Rep. Chris Garrett, Co-Chair
Rep. Bill Kennemer, Co-Chair
House Business and Labor Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

MEASURE: HB 4053
EXHIBIT: 5
2012 SESSION H BUSINESS & LABOR
DATE: 2/3/12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Teri Dresler

Rep. Garrett, Rep. Kennemer, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the public assembly venues and attractions managed by Metro – the Oregon Zoo, Oregon Convention Center, Portland Center for the Performing Arts and Portland Expo Center – I am writing to express concern about House Bill 4053 as proposed.

Metro's visitor venues host over 3 million visitors each year who attend a wide variety of events, performances and exhibits. We take very seriously the protections afforded those with physical impairments under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other laws, and work hard to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to our public spaces for all of our guests.

HB 4053 expands the eligibility for legal use of an assistance animal to those with a record of or regarded as "mentally impaired" but lacks a clear definition of the term, which raises numerous operational questions for public facility managers who would be responsible for implementing this new law. Most importantly, the potential for broad interpretation, disagreement and misunderstanding poses significant legal and public safety risks to Metro and our employees.

The Metro visitor venues strive to provide memorable experiences for all of our visitors and we are committed to providing reasonable accommodations to those with physical disabilities under the ADA. Should the bill's proponents be willing to accept amendments to clarify and limit the accommodations provided under HB 4053, we would be happy to participate to make the proposal more workable from a venue management perspective.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teri Dresler".

Teri Dresler
General Manager, Visitor Venues

cc: Metro Council
Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission
Randy Tucker