

February 9, 2012

Oregon House of Representatives
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Honorable Brian Clem, Co-Chair
Honorable Sal Esquivel, Co-Chair

Good afternoon Co-Chair Clem, Co-Chair Esquivel, and members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. I apologize for not being able to attend today's hearing and appreciate this opportunity to provide written testimony regarding House Bill 4090. My testimony today is specifically in regard to a proposed amendment to HB 4090 that would allow a municipality to withdraw an area from a special service district only if the city provides the particular service.

My name is David McKane. I reside at 674 Fall Creek Drive N, Keizer, OR 97303. I am currently a member of the Keizer City Council and have been a member of the council since 2004. I support the proposed amendment to HB 4090 that would allow a municipality to withdraw an area from a special service district only if the city provides the particular service.

Today the City of Keizer is served by both the Keizer Rural Fire Protection District and Marion County Fire District #1. The City of Keizer provides no fire protection service nor does it fund any fire protection service. It is my understanding that the Keizer Rural Fire Protection District dates back to the 1940s, and Marion County Fire District #1 dates back to the 1930s. When the City of Keizer incorporated in 1982, both districts retained their areas inside the Keizer city boundaries.

Recently the City of Keizer began the process of withdrawing land away from Marion County Fire District #1 and annexing it to the Keizer Rural Fire Protection District. I have to tell you the process of a municipality taking land, and tax revenue, away from one fire district and giving it to another fire district is not an example of efficient government. From the very beginning it has been argued that the City of Keizer does not have the authority to withdraw land from one fire district and give it to another. This is currently being argued in the Third Judicial District of the Circuit Court

February 9, 2012
Page Two

of Oregon. The proposed amendment to HB 4090 will make a city's authority in matters like this crystal clear.

It is my opinion that decisions involving critical services like fire protection need to be made by the fire professionals we trust and rely on. Instead of the two districts in Keizer working collaboratively, a competitive environment now exists to see which district will prevail. A city-wide election is scheduled and the electorate will have the ability to pick one fire service over the other. Precious resources from both districts are being expended on this battle.

I understand and I believe reasonable people can disagree on issues like this. And it is no secret I am of the minority opinion on this matter at Keizer city hall. But at the end of the day I can confidently say that the process Keizer and two fire districts are now involved in is completely inefficient and has resulted in two special taxing districts overtly fighting over taxpayer revenues. This proposed amendment to HB 4090 will clarify the process of withdrawal and annexation of land from a special service district and will eliminate battles between special districts like the one now being fought in Keizer.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David McKane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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