



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING
2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

February 11, 2013

The Honorable Arnie Roblan, Chair
Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter in Support of SB 331

Dear Senator Roblan and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, I express our strong support of SB 331, which would result in a 50/50 split of RV license fee revenue between the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and counties. Currently, counties receive only 35 percent of RV fee revenue yet provide half of all campsites throughout the state. A more equitable distribution of RV fee revenue will help Clackamas County address its growing backlog of deferred maintenance projects and keep its parks open and safe for visitors.

Clackamas County operates 1,000 acres of parkland, including 12 developed park sites and 201 campsites, that provide opportunities for camping, picnicking, hiking and river access for fishing and rafting. Clackamas County relies heavily on user and RV fee revenue to operate, maintain and improve these facilities. Given financial pressures, the County's primary focus is on maintaining existing facilities, which is a significant challenge in and of itself: Clackamas County has identified \$4.8 million in priority deferred maintenance projects that are needed just to keep our existing parks open and safe.

If passed, SB 331 would bring in an additional \$151,000 in RV fee revenue to Clackamas County each year. These funds will enable the County to undertake much needed park repair and replacement projects, including: replacing play equipment which is no longer safe; repairing deteriorated asphalt roadways and parking areas; rehabbing old restroom structures; and renovating potable water systems. Addressing these needs will improve the safety of our parks and provide a boost to the local economy by attracting more visitors.

We strongly urge your support of SB 331 and thank you for considering our comments. Please contact our Government Affairs Specialists, Jared Anderson (janderson@clackamas.us) or Chris Lyons (clyons@clackamas.us) if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

John Ludlow, Chair
On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners