



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DOUG ROBERTSON JOSEPH LAURANCE SUSAN MORGAN

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February 12, 2013

Senate Committee on Rural Communities and Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem OR 97301

Dear Members:

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners wishes to express our support for SB331. We believe the equitable distribution of recreational vehicle registration fees between Oregon's County Parks and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to be an essential element in the continued level of service provided by our County Parks.

A quality County Parks system is an important component to our way of life. In Douglas County our parks provide a wide array of recreational opportunities from ATV riding on the Oregon Dunes; an excellent equestrian experience at Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park near Oakland; and to one of the most popular disc golf courses on the west coast.

As County revenues decrease, especially in rural Oregon, it has become increasingly difficult to provide these opportunities. Our limited dollars are needed by public safety and the public works departments. Services such as parks and libraries are being reduced due to the difficult economic times. Since 2005, our Parks Department has reduced its total budget by 45%, the general fund contribution by 70% and staff by 37%.

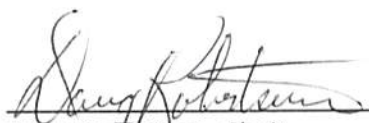
At the same time, facilities that were constructed in the 60's, 70's and 80's are in dire need updating and repair.

We are striving to make our Parks system as efficient as possible; an on-line reservation system will be in place at the end of this month. We have also recently sold an un-developed park parcel to help fund improvements.

Your legislature can take a giant step toward keeping our parks system viable by passing SB331. We encourage your endorsement of this measure.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


Doug Robertson, Chair


Joseph Laurance


Susan Morgan