

2020 Lake Wind Drive
Eugene, OR 97408
Feb. 12, 2013

Senate Committee on Rural Communities
and Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 331 Parks Fees Distributions

Dear Senators,

I'm a native Oregonian and lifelong outdoors enthusiast who regularly uses city, county, state and national parks. I deeply understand the intrinsic value of outdoor recreation.

As a parks advocate/volunteer citizen member and chairwoman of Lane County's Parks Advisory Committee (PAC) I have been part of the agonizing discussions on park budgets and funding. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that all agencies throughout our great state actively share in the responsibility of providing positive and memorable park experiences for our citizens and visitors.

Our committee recognizes the current distribution of recreational vehicle license revenues at 65% to state parks and only 35% to county parks is not a balanced or equitable sharing of this valuable funding. When Oregon's 38 counties provide and maintain 49% (almost half) of available campsites throughout the state and yet only receive about one third of the collected RV fees, this imbalance in resources needs rectified.

The 50/50 split proposed in SB 331 appropriately and fairly redresses these park fees distributions to both state and county agencies.

Time is of the essence. We can't financially wait for the 2015 sunset date of this legislation...a date which actually worsens the disparity by reverting to the original 70/30% split in favor of even greater state park revenue accretion.

Speaking personally and also for Lane County's PAC, I urge you to please vote for SB 331 and request an emergency action effective this July (2013) to make these much needed park funds available as soon as possible. All of Oregon's park users deserve this beneficial and corrective legislative action.

Thank you all for your work on this important matter.

Very sincerely,



Patricia P. Hoover
Chairwoman, Lane County Parks Advisory Committee