



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St. NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301-1271

(503) 986-0707

Fax (503) 986-0794

www.oregonstateparks.org



TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 196A

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair

MG Devereux

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

(503) 986-0735

Chair Holvey, members of the committee, I am MG Devereux of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and I am before you today to request your support for Senate Bill 196A.

This legislation will enhance our ability to connect with individual, private, and corporate donors through nonprofit organizations to improve our state park system.

The legislation would permit the department to provide promotional items such as park passes, brochures, merchandise, promotional space on our web site, office or meeting space for events and activities intended to raise funds for the benefit of the department. Relationships in the past have been hampered by an extremely risk averse approach that, if these clarifications are adopted, will greatly improve the effectiveness of both organizations.

SB 196A will clarify expectations and responsibilities for the department when entering into an agreement with a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to assist the department in soliciting gifts, grants, and donations for the benefit of the state park system. Gifts, grants, and donations raised by partner nonprofits are typically used to supplement the cost of capital and rehabilitation projects such as the renovation of Vista House and Kam Wah Chung & Company museum, and programs such as Let's Go Camping - a recently established program to introduce families and children to camping and outdoor recreation in state parks. The amendments offered in the Senate also increase transparency and accountability by requiring 30 days' notice to the Legislature and the public prior to entering into an agreement.

The proposed changes in sec 2(1) are not intended to imply that other agencies do not have sufficient existing authority to contract with nonprofits for fundraising purposes, rather they are intended to clarify department's relationships with nonprofits whose efforts are to benefit the state park system.

I urge your support of this bill and would welcome any questions.

Thank you.