



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

**Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation Budget
Mark Labhart, Chair
Tillamook County Commissioner
March 6, 2013**

I personally urge you to support the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation Budget. On behalf of all of Oregon's counties including Tillamook County we appreciate the financial, technical and professional support that is provided by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

A number of Oregon Counties receive important financial support such as the Local Government Grant Program and the County Opportunity Grants. Over the past several months, we have been engaged in conversations with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and in particular Director Wood to strengthen our overall system of state and local parks.

We urge your support for:

- Local Governments and Counties through funding of:
 - The Local Government Grant Program
 - County Parks Opportunity Grant program
 - Re-allocation of the Recreation Vehicle revenues to a 55%/45% split consistent with SB 331 as amended that recently passed unanimously out of the Senate Rural Communities and Economic Development Committee. This bill has been referred for your consideration to Ways and Means.
- Efforts to provide the State Fairgrounds/Exposition center with more flexibility to manage in a businesslike manner and reduce the financial burden that this facility, under current state restrictions, places on OPRD; This includes supporting the Governor's budget that includes a lottery appropriation of \$3.8 million for the State Fair/Exposition Center.
- Allowing OPRD to increase campground rates to maintain their campgrounds and recognize their long-term funding needs.

Since we view our parks as an overall system, what happens on the state level also impacts counties and our ability to provide services and adequate funding for both state and county parks. Thanks for the opportunity to provide this testimony.