

Date: February 4, 2014
To: Board of Deschutes County Commissioners
From: Gladys I. Biglor & Jack Souhrada
Re: SB-1514 Opposition to proposal by Association of Oregon Counties

Dear Commissioners Alan Under, Tammy Baney, and Tony DeBone,

As avid users of Oregon State parks we are opposed to the proposal to erode State Park funding via SB-1514.

Yesterday we sent our concerns to the Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development members along with a copy to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission, Senator Knopp, Representative Whisnant and Rep. Jason Conger. I am providing you with a copy of that testimony given you are all active members of the Association of Oregon Counties.

I am becoming increasingly disturbed as I research this issue. Yesterday I spoke with Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission Interim Director Lisa Van Laanen and today with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Communications and Research Division Chris Havel. Both individuals were extremely gracious answering all of my questions.

I'm providing you with a list of our concerns:

- State Park RV fees providing funding for County Parks
- Agreements (most recent occurring between Nov 2013/Jan 2014) at the request of Association of Oregon Counties to transfer ever increasing RV fee funding from Oregon State Parks to county parks with what appears to be little to no input from users AND (most harmful) removal of sunset clause vital to maintaining future State Park funding.

Considering that Deschutes County has no county parks (information obtained from county website verified by officials from Bend Metro Park and Recreation Department), I realize that this issue/concern most likely is not on your radar screen however I'm sharing our concerns with you should this topic or situation ever rear its ugly head again during future Association meetings.

As a tax and fee payers we are increasingly irate when government cannot live within its means. This bill is a prime example of county government not living within its means thus thrusting its hand in the pot of state government for redistribution of funds **without the public's knowledge!** Had it not been for the Bulletin's editorial on January 26th, 2014 condemning this redistribution I doubt this backroom arm pulling deal would have ever surfaced in our community for the public's view and input. As avid state park users we (and our friends who use state parks) would never have known that this so called "compromise" had transpired. **Bulletin Editorial Don't shift state park funds to county parks**

The Bulletin had it right: until our state has gobs of money it can't spend on it's own programs it shouldn't shift money to county programs that should be funded by county taxes and fees or be eliminated.

Jack Souhrada and Gladys Biglor 62139 Cody Rd Bend OR 97701

Cc/Sen Tim Knopp, Representative Gene Whisnant, Representative Jason Conger, Lisa Van Laanen and Chris Havel Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, Gill Riddell Association of Oregon Counties, Shelley Raszaka Committee Assistant and Committee members Senate Committee on Rural Communities & Economic Development,