



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Mark Labhart,
Tillamook County Commissioner
201 Laurel Avenue
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
Phone 503-842-3403
Fax 503-842-1384

SB 1514 RV Registration Bill Testimony Feb. 25, 2014

Co-Chairs Edwards and Unger. Members of the Committee. For the record my name is Mark Labhart. I am a Tillamook County Commissioner and today I'm speaking on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties. AOC respectfully asks that you support this Committee Bill as amended.

This Bill is good for Rural Oregon. This Bill goes a long way in helping to reduce the maintenance backlog County Parks are experiencing throughout Oregon. 35 of Oregon's 36 counties will directly benefit from passage of this Bill.

What is before you today is a culmination of a lot of work by a lot of people. Following the last Legislative session you directed through a budget note that State Parks work with the counties to **"develop recommendations that will result in a more equitable sharing of resources between the state and the counties."** We have done that with this Committee Bill SB 1514.

The counties and OPRD used an Oregon Solutions process with neutral facilitation through the assistance of the Oregon Consensus Center and attended by a representative from the Governor's Office to develop what you have before you today. Again AOC supports the results of this process as I believe State Parks and the Governor's office do.

Passage of this Bill will go a long ways to reducing the estimated \$80 million of backlog maintenance in our county Parks throughout Oregon. Since County and State Parks equally share about 1/2 of all the campground sites in the state, we believe this compromise Bill does a good job of helping rural Oregon rebuild its county parks infrastructure as the lottery bill has done for state parks. To give you some examples as to how this Bill will benefit your counties when fully implemented: Douglas County will receive an additional \$97,000 per year, Washington County will receive an additional \$80,000 per year, Hood River County will receive an additional \$37,000 per year and Multnomah County will receive an additional \$111,000 per year for county park maintenance.

Passage of this Bill also creates recreation coalitions that will focus on collaborative parks and recreation planning with the goal of increasing efficiencies for state and local providers. OPRD and the Counties believe there are locations around the state where state parks may be more efficiently managed by counties and visa-versa. We both are committed to exploring these opportunities.

In summary, a lot of people drove a long ways from all over the state today to show their support for this Committee Bill. We respectfully ask that you also support this Bill. Rural and Urban Oregon will be much better off with the passage of this Bill.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.