

March 31, 2015

Representative Shemia Fagan
Chair, House Consumer Protection and Government Effectiveness Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Fagan & Members of the Committee:

The Special Districts Association has approximately 950 single service local government district members that provide a variety of services including municipal drinking water, sewer and storm water treatment, fire, libraries, irrigation, parks and recreation to name a few. Our members strive to deliver critical services in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. Our organization would like to express a couple of concerns with HB 3315, which would require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) their costs in providing services to executive department agencies.

SDAO fully recognizes the daunting fiscal challenges faced by ODFW. We are also sympathetic to all natural resource agencies that struggle to meet their core missions with very little General Fund support. We understand that these fiscal challenges make it very difficult for these agencies to deliver all the services expected by the public. With that said, we are certainly willing to entertain new approaches to meeting these fiscal challenges.

As a result, we do not have any issue with authorizing the department to begin tracking and preparing statements reporting the number of hours spent by ODFW personnel performing services for another entity. However, we are concerned that the measure authorizes ODFW to begin billing those entities, who will likely pass along those costs to other public entities on July 1, 2017.

We believe that prior to allowing ODFW to actually begin billing those entities a stakeholder group ought to be convened to examine the data produced by the department. Stakeholders should be directed to review and examine that information and come forward with recommendations on how those costs should be determined if there are questions and how the department should be equitably reimbursed for any of those costs beyond what is considered to be a core mission of the department.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Landauer
Special Districts Association of Oregon
Government Affairs