

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
Tim Josi, Mark Labhart, Bill Baertlein
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Tillamook, Oregon 97141
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TTY Oregon Relay Service

March 26, 2015

RE: HB 2459 Adjusting Fees Related to Boating Titling And Registration

Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly:

Tillamook County stretches 78 miles along the Oregon coast. We are a rural coastal county blessed with a variety and an abundance of waterbodies, which includes rivers, bays, estuaries and the Pacific Ocean.

Our resident population is relatively small, however our visitor and or tourist counts far surpasses – by more than 30 plus times – our resident population, and has been growing consistently for the past several decades. Many come to enjoy our waterbodies and utilize our boating facilities.

Tillamook County, like many rural counties, is dependent on our natural resources to help provide funding for many of our government programs. Due to natural resource related budget constraints, we removed our Parks Department from the General Fund. The Parks Department remains solvent by collecting fees for the services they provide. We have had to increase our parks services fees on a regular basis in order to keep the Parks Department solvent.

But fees alone are not enough. Our parks program receives critical funding from the Oregon State Marine Board (MAP) Maintenance Assistance Program as well as matching grants programs.

Recently our Parks Department received a dredging grant in a very timely manner for one of our most heavily utilized and popular boat launches. If not for the professional and expert technical staff assistance and guidance provided by OSMB staff – along with their financial assistance – the dredging project would not have been accomplished within the window allowed for in water work.

This is just one example among many of OSMB's exemplary work and willingness to do whatever it takes to get a project completed successfully.

Tillamook County strongly supports the proposed fee increase being requested by the OSMB. Please give your positive consideration to this request and keep all of the many jurisdictions being aided by OSMB's dedicated staff in mind. Our constituents depend on the services they provide.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Josi', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tim Josi, Chair
Tillamook County Board of County Commissioners

CC Delbert F. Schleichert, Parks Director
Barbara Trout, Chair Parks Advisory Committee