



January 30, 2018

Rep. Paul Holvey
Chair Business and Labor Committee
900 Court St. NE, Salem H-277
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Holvey and Members of the Business and Labor Committee;

On behalf of the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, I am writing to express our support for House Bill 4093, which clarifies that amateur athletes who play for a junior hockey league team are not employees when playing for the team. We are supporting this bill due to the public-private partnership that we are currently negotiating with the Portland Winterhawks and our desire to ensure their continued presence as our partner.

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is a special service district providing parks, trails, aquatic facilities and recreation facilities to approximately 250,000 residents in Washington County. THPRD does not currently provide any ice rink facilities, and given the current financial obligations we have in maintaining and programming our existing facilities it is doubtful that, on our own, we would be able to provide this. Our partnership with the Portland Winterhawks provides us with a unique opportunity to provide a much needed and desired facility at minimal cost to the THPRD taxpayers. The Winterhawks not only bring substantial experience in operating these types of facilities, but they will be providing most of the capital funding to construct the facility. This facility would not only provide significant community benefit by doubling the available playing surface in Washington County, but as an event and tournament site it will also provide economic benefit through increased travel and tourism.

As a special service district, the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District faces many of the same challenges as other municipal agencies in trying to provide greater services and meeting increased community needs with constrained revenues. The opportunity to create public-private partnerships is a critical tool for us to address these challenges. We encourage passage of House Bill 4093 to ensure the continued presence of the Portland Winterhawks as our partner.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith D. Hobson".

Keith D. Hobson
Director of Business and Facilities
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District

Cc: Doug Menke, THPRD General Manager