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April 9, 2019

Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agricultural & Land Use
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Post, and Members of the Committee,

THPRD strives to meet the diverse needs of the communities we serve. We are submitting this letter to express our continued concerns with HB 3099, which would create a new mechanism for a city to withdraw from a special district – a mechanism that bypasses the statutory process already in place for special districts and county service districts across the state. It is our understanding that this process has not yet been utilized in the current situation in Happy Valley, making this bill both unnecessary (a process already exists) and premature (that process has not yet been fully executed).

Although the new mechanism would not apply to THPRD with our current composition, HB 3099 sets a concerning precedent for policies relating to the annexation and withdrawal of cities from special districts. This will impact the long-term planning of our district and many others as special districts may back away from the annexation of cities going forward.

We are aware of the -1 amendments and while they are an improvement to the base bill, both the base bill and the amendments address a specific, local issue with a statutory change that is:

- Unnecessary
- Premature
- Bad precedent

Finally, THPRD believes that previous legislative directives on the clear and orderly provision of urban services should guide these complex discussions. We urge you to allow the existing process to be fully executed before taking action at the state level that would have ramifications beyond the current local dispute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Menke", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Doug Menke, General Manager
Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District