



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

April 9, 2019

Chair Brian Clem and Members of the House Agriculture and Land Use Committee

Subject: Washington County Opposes HB 3099

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, also serving as the Board of Directors for Clean Water Services which is the regional waste water treatment district serving much of the Tualatin Basin, share deep concerns about HB 3099, scheduled for a work session in your Committee on Tuesday, April 9.

This bill prescribes a statewide solution to a localized problem and proposes a whole new process for residents and taxpayers of a city to withdraw from a special service district. The proposed process bypasses the current statutory process already in place for special districts and county service providers throughout our state, a process that we believe works quite well. We have serious concerns with HB 3099 as it attempts to address a specific, local problem with a statutory change that carries far-reaching implications statewide.

In addition, we are concerned that HB 3099 raises serious questions about responsibilities and liabilities for valuable district assets when a city abruptly withdraws financial support and the tax base needed to maintain and operate established programs, services and facilities. Faced with this uncertainty, service districts across the state would need to carefully evaluate making further capital investments, and any additional annexations or service expansions, where they could face costly and burdensome litigation.

Washington County and Clean Water Services believe HB 3099 is unnecessary and that it will result in unintended consequences across Oregon for special districts and county service providers, dedicated to meeting the needs of all residents in our communities.

We respectfully urge you to oppose HB 3099.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Harrington
Chair,
Washington County
Board of Commissioners

Roy Rogers
Commissioner, District #3
Washington County

Dick Schouten
Commissioner, District #1
Washington County

Pam Treece
Commissioner, District #2
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Board of County Commissioners

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