

March 7, 2019

Representative Brian Clem
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St NE, H-481
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Proposed HB 2790

Dear Representative Clem,

Please add the following testimonial to your agenda to move forward with HB 2790 regarding changing the Oregon Mass Gathering Statute.

My name is Troy Jones. I live at 22335 Gap Road Harrisburg, OR. Our small community is approximately 10 miles East of Harrisburg and is nestled in the Coburg Mountain foothills.

Should the trend for “ Outdoor Mass Gatherings” continue to grow, the need for more consideration is necessary to understand and address the impacts to the surrounding businesses, farms and wildlife.

For instance, our area was a potential location for the Willamette Country Music Festival. It was to be held within one half mile of our home. There were three specific items of concern to myself, my family, local farms/businesses and neighbors:

First, our local businesses and farms would have been significantly impacted by traffic. These small rural roads cannot support the number of vehicles visiting mass gatherings, aimed at bringing in tens of thousands of people.

Farmers need accessibility to their fields with large farm equipment. Mass Gatherings should not be permitted without taking their access into consideration.

Secondly, fire danger and access for emergency vehicles in any localized area should be taken into consideration. **Fire danger is real.** Unfortunately, there is a long, and growing list of examples of catastrophic fire events on the West Coast. Large outdoor mass gatherings present a real potential fire risk. Snarled traffic on small rural roads can block access for first responders to fire and or local home emergencies.

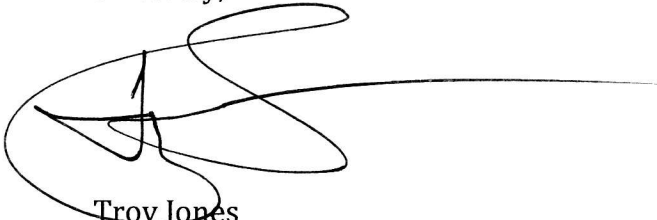
Rural Fire Departments are often understaffed and unable to successfully address larger fires. In our particular instance, hundreds of square miles of timber could have been placed at risk.

Lastly, tens of thousands of people can leave a negative footprint on wildlife and fish in the area if not taken into consideration. Long-term outdoor mass gatherings can be a devastating threat to these resources. For instance, in our area we have Elk, Deer, Wild Turkey, Pheasant, Ducks native Trout and Salmon Spawning streams.

It is imperative citizens in the beautiful State of Oregon have a voice when it comes to "Outdoor Mass Gatherings". All too often, Farmers, local Business owners and neighborhoods subject themselves to financial impacts, sacrifice and even potential damages due to these Outdoor Mass gatherings; all in an effort to be a "good neighbor".

For all the aforementioned reasons I ask the State of Oregon to revise their Outdoor Mass Gathering Statutes by passing HB 2790.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Jones', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Troy Jones
22335 Gap Road
Harrisburg, OR 97446

541-603-6637