

May 13, 2019

Dear Chair Riley & Members of the Committee:

As a former chair of the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District Advisory Board (2012 – 2014) and a current member of the Happy Valley Parks Advisory Committee (2010-present), I'm no stranger to the inefficiencies found in Oregon's Special District statutes. During my service on these boards, I have watched as these two agencies made good faith efforts to dissolve their service district relationship. Through no fault of their own, but rather the ambiguities in state law, these agencies have been hampered in their endeavors.

Without HB 3099A, local jurisdictions like Happy Valley and NCPRD are stuck. There is no clear path in state law for a city to initiate the withdrawal process. The quagmire resulting from this ambiguity is a disincentive for jurisdictions to pursue service delivery efficiencies or enhancements.

Thank you for supporting small communities and service districts by voting "AYE" on HB 3099A. As a longtime member of my community, I look forward to seeing both NCPRD and Happy Valley thrive in their respective provision of parks services.

Respectfully,

William A. Bersie