

SUPPORT FOR HB 3099A

May 7, 2019

Dear Committee members:

Not only am I a resident of both Happy Valley and NCPRD, I'm a father raising a family. As a dad, I want good things for my children, like safe and accessible parks. More importantly, I want to teach my children about the importance of equity and fairness. It is because of equity and fairness that I support HB 3099A and encourage you to do the same.

Simply put, HB 3099 is a necessary correction of systemic unfairness in Oregon law. HB 3099A narrowly applies to county service districts, in which the county board of commissioners is simultaneously the governing body of the service district. The duality of these roles is an inherent conflict of interest as counties cannot possibly exercise judgment impartial to their service districts. Placing this expectation on counties is unfair and the result, unfortunately, is a process inequitably biased against cities.

The legislative assembly has a unique opportunity to correct the inequality between counties and cities in a service district relationship. A fair process for exiting a district must give the governing body of the county discretion, as well as mitigating their standing conflict of interest. HB 3099A provides a fair process, including safeguards around residual debt and assets. Further, HB 3099A is fair to voters: approval to exit a service district would be required of the same voter who approve the City joining a service district.

Thank you for joining me in **SUPPORT FOR HB 3099A**.

Grant Roper