



May 13, 2019

To: Chair Riley and Members of the Senate Business and General Government Committee

From: Dick Schouten, Washington County Commissioner and Clean Water Services Board

Subject: Washington County Opposes HB 3099

Good morning, Chair Riley, and Committee members. I am Dick Schouten, and I serve on the Washington County Board of Commissioners, representing District #1 which covers Beaverton, Aloha, and unincorporated Washington County. In that capacity, I also serve on the Board of Directors for Clean Water Services which is the regional waste water treatment district serving much of the Tualatin Basin. Both Washington County and Clean Water Services share deep concerns about HB 3099.

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. But that new process would bypass the current statutory process already in place for special districts and county service providers like Clean Water Services, a process that we believe works quite well. So we have serious concerns with HB 3099 as it attempts to fix a specific, local problem with a statutory change that carries far-reaching implications for Washington County and Clean Water Services, and County Service Districts statewide.

In addition, we are concerned that HB 3099 raises serious questions about responsibilities and liabilities for valuable district assets when a city unilaterally withdraws financial support and the tax base needed to maintain and operate established programs, services and facilities. Faced with this uncertainty, service districts like Clean Water Services will be reluctant to make further capital investments, additional annexations or service expansions in places like south Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard, King City, or Sherwood, where we 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.

For additional information, please contact

Dick Schouten

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