

Honorable Sen. Lee Beyer,

March 4,2021

Honorable Rep. Susan McLain

Honorable Rep. Paul Evans

Regarding SB 466

Letter written in **Opposition:** Hearing on SB 466 Tuesday 3/9/2021 8 am

Thank you for considering this letter in opposition to SB 466. There are many reasons that this proposed legislation is wrong for Recreational Vehicle owners in Oregon.

First of all, Recreational Vehicles have been and are a preferred method of travel during the retirement years when the owner's health has allowed. Health is a limiting factor to using Recreational Vehicles. Thus, for many Oregonians that have worked, paid taxes and earned the right to pursue a retirement where they can travel throughout these grand United States and elsewhere, during their brief period of retirement; additional expenses are a large impact. They pay taxes by way of fuel taxes and many other taxes as they travel on incomes that are but a fraction of their salaries during their working lives. The Recreational owner is typically one that has been able to: purchase; pay for licensing; along with taxes and fuel on fixed incomes. Therefore, any increase in tax for any reason becomes unreasonable especially when they do not benefit from its purpose.

Secondly, the intent of this proposed legislation is for the removal of abandoned, & / or dilapidated Recreational Vehicles that have been purchased as living quarters by those who cannot afford housing, rent, or ownership by any other means. Therefore, the **systemic issue is one of affordable housing**. Unfortunately, as these vehicles decline in condition, they become uninhabitable and are left for someone else to dispose. Again, it is not the responsibility of legitimate and responsible Recreational Vehicle Owners to assume a taxation on an item that depreciates the moment it is purchased for the convenience of cities, and or counties like Portland or Multnomah. Perhaps the citizens residing in the area that benefit from the removal of said vehicles should be the ones taxed.

Thirdly, we would all have to agree that the past 14 months have been ones that have demanded changes and denials to activities that we have enjoyed for many years. Currently, R V Owners have been hit with increased fuel costs; delays in being able to have repairs done; or being able to find restaurants and campgrounds that are open. And if they were open, amenities were closed like the recreational facilities, hot tubs, swimming pools; not to mention the closed restaurants and isolation between friends. Additional taxation by any entity, at this time, is truly unconscionable, disrespectful and inappropriate. RV Owners should not have to shoulder the responsibility of unused and abandoned vehicles any more than all homeowners pay for removal of abandoned or irreparable housing. . The burden should not be placed on a group that receives absolutely **No** benefit from their removal. It is not the responsible recreational vehicle owner that abandoned and allowed the vehicle to become uninhabitable! The real issue is the lack of affordable housing and homelessness. Few, if any, recent resident occupants of said abandoned vehicles would choose a dilapidated RV over affordable housing as a permanent home. They are here because they have no other choice except to sleep on the street! Homelessness; or the lack of affordable housing should not be placed on the owners of recreational vehicles. It is unfair to continue this form of intended taxation. The unfairness is no different than having **only homeowners residing in Portland be the only ones taxed to pay for the clean-up efforts on the**

entire Oregon coast beaches. We all know the problem is from a few people not accepting responsibility for their own actions. Further, Responsible RV owners will keep their RVs until they want newer, better, or the vehicle is no longer roadworthy. All too often it is valued at a price where the very less fortunate can acquire them as permanent housing. These less fortunate folks will put them where rent is low or non-existent. The RV owner you are targeting with this tax is not the one who left it abandoned or dilapidated!

As RV Owners, we are already having to deal with private campgrounds that have changed from nightly camping to one favoring monthly renters, thereby reducing availability of campground sites. For example, a campground that we used to patronize, had 15 to 25 nightly spaces available. Currently, they prefer the consistent income of monthly rentals and the nightly availability has been reduced to 2 spaces. The net result is that as RV Owners we end up paying inflated pricing and we experience reduced places where we are allowed to camp. This is done by campgrounds, cities, counties and states enacting laws restricting where we can camp. Signs displaying "No Overnight Camping" have become commonplace. Further, those folks who use the RV as a permanent home, in low rent areas are much more likely to have the vehicles in disrepair and more likely to become part of the problem. Many campgrounds do not allow older RVs to register and stay; as their history has been to leave things for others to clean-up.

Owners of an RV already contribute to the health of all communities, by responsible owners without additional taxation. We purchase, license, title, insurance as well as tires, oil & fuel. We constantly pay for repairs done in the communities where we happen to be at that time. We patronize grocery, clothing, & medical facilities all providing opportunities for community support and taxation. Most states have sales tax. We pay that as well. We pay our fair share each and every day, without an additional \$12 tax on the many; for the few. If the problem is predominantly in Portland and or Multnomah counties; they should shoulder the cost of removal since they benefit. Respectfully; we the undersigned Recreational Vehicle Owners ask that you **not support SSB 466 in any form** short of letting those who benefit do the paying. Thank You

Sincerely,

Evan L. Evans, Ph.D

Written by Evan L. Evans, Ph.D

//Signed//

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Additional Signatures of R V owners supporting this letter of opposition to SB 466

Julie B. Evans AuD

Jim & Linda DeBord

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David & Ruth Veteran