



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

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Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 890. For the record, I am Katie Gauthier, Government Relations and Policy Manager for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

This bill would correct a statutory conflict in ORS 390.114. Under statute, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission is a 7-member commission appointed by the Governor with one member from each congressional district PLUS one from east of the Cascades and PLUS one from west of the Coast range. This totals seven when Oregon had five congressional districts. The addition of a sixth congressional district in Oregon would require eight members, creating the statutory conflict within ORS 390.114.

Under SB 890, the Parks and Recreation Commission would remain seven members with one from each congressional district, and do away with the two extra additions. Instead, within the seven members spread across six districts, at least one would need to be from east of the Cascade Mountains and one from west of the Coast Range. Additional criteria would be added for the Governor to consider outdoor recreation interests, heritage interests, racial, ethnic and gender diversity in appointments of all members of the Commission.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department operates state parks in nearly every county in Oregon, provides community grants and heritage programs open to all communities in Oregon, and manages 362 miles of the ocean shore—we are a statewide organization and it is important the members of our commission reflect that statewide mission.