



March 7th, 2023

Dear Oregon Legislators,

On behalf of ROSE Community Development, we urge you to support HB 3515. This measure would modify the Park and Recreation District statute to allow for an additional city council governance option for cities with populations over 600,000 with the approval of the county in which the majority of the city lies if the district ballot measure includes a permanent rate for operating taxes.

ROSE is a community development organization which owns and operates affordable housing in outer Southeast Portland. We currently operate over 500 units of housing in the area. Having access to safe, welcoming parks is important to our residents, particularly for families living in multifamily apartments without private yards.

Unfortunately, park infrastructure in Portland can be harder to access in some areas, such as East of 82nd Avenue. A lack of parks is a contributing factor in heat disparities during summer heat waves, due to the lack of trees and green spaces. Efforts to improve or expand parks, as well as to maintain existing ones, are limited by the current system.

HB 3515, modeled after similar legislation that Washington legislators passed in 2002, can give cities like Portland more options to better serve their residents with parks. Please support HB 3515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Sauvie".

Nick Sauvie
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ana Meza".

Ana Meza
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