



March 8, 2023

TO: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

FROM: 40 Mile Loop Land Trust

RE: HB 3515

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Lewis & Tran, and Members of the Committee:

The 40 Mile Loop Land Trust is pleased to offer this letter of support for the City of Portland's efforts to enable the City of Portland to form a parks and recreation district. Giving Portland the authority to form a parks and recreation district merely allows the City the opportunity to ask Portland voters if they wish to form and fund a special district for parks and recreation services. Action at the State level will give the City of Portland authority similar to every County in Oregon (all but one of which currently with a population less than Portland).

This effort is driven by the need to stabilize funding for parks and recreation services. Our organization is a recreational trail advocacy group that has partnered with Portland Parks & Recreation for over 40 years. For decades we have witnessed first-hand the stress and uncertainty of a non-dedicated funding source for programs and services offered by Portland Parks & Recreation.

We respectfully ask the Oregon Legislature to pass HB 3515 and allow Portland voters to decide whether a local parks and recreation district is in their best interests.

Sincerely,

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