

May 13, 2019

I have lived in Happy Valley for 5 years. As a homeowner within the City of Happy Valley, I am sending this letter in strong support of HB 3099A. Sometimes, there are opportunities to easily fix unfair laws, and this is one of those situations. When Happy Valley chose to join a county service district, there is a well-thought-out process to follow. However, when a city chooses to leave, there is no way for this to occur.

I am aware that people are saying there is currently a way for a city to get out of a special purpose district. However, under the current process a city submitting a petition to withdraw and submitting it to the governing body of the district, ORS 198 requires a governing body to deny a petition if "it appears that it is, or would be, feasible for the territory described in the petition to receive service from the district."

There has to be a way for the city to get out if a special purpose district has not provided the services that were agreed upon when a city first agreed to join the district. NCPRD has a court ruling against them that they broke the contract between the city and NCPRD. I feel it isn't appropriate that all 122,000 residents (22,000+ within the city) would need to vote on the withdrawal. It is the city's residents that want out and should have the right to decide what is the best interest of the city. There is no way that 100,000 non-residents of the city would vote in favor of allowing a Happy Valley withdrawal.

House bill 3099A provides a path for cities. It is a reasonable solution which does not burden a district. In fact, the bill even lays out that both entities have to agree on how to distribute assets in the rare occurrence of a city withdrawal.

I would urge you to support House Bill 3099A.

Sincerely,

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