



TO: Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health & Recovery
FROM: Michael Klein, Association Director
Oregon Recreation & Park Association
DATE: March 4, 2021
RE: Opposition to SB 410

The Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA) is made up of more than 2,200 members, including 68 park and recreation agencies as well as professionals and volunteers. Our mission is to support the recreation and park profession in Oregon through leadership, education, advocacy, and member services.

Like the Oregon legislature, ORPA is concerned about public policies, both state and local, that deal with the ongoing issue of houselessness. ORPA believes we must continually learn and challenge our conventional beliefs in order to evolve and that power structures exist in communities that limit the ability of marginalized communities to access parks and recreation services which undermines the ability for all community members to prosper. Compassion absolutely must come first. We also must acknowledge daily decisions that have to be made by local governments within the constraints on the resources they have. SB 410 addresses activity parks and recreation agencies throughout the state adhere to, but it pushes some details of the policy to unachievable parameters.

Specifically – we take issue with this language:

- (B) Storage facilities must be located within:
- (i) The city in which the property was given to law enforcement officials;
 - (ii) Five miles of the camping site; and
 - (iii) Six blocks of a public transit station.

Each local entity does the best they can with storage of unclaimed property. Whether posting for removal, retainage time or location, we are doing what we can to preserve the ability of people and property reuniting. But our storage resources, facilities and locations are limited and adhering to more restrictive parameters of distance from site of pickup and to public transit is for some simply not feasible

We ask you to consider these points as you contemplate distance constraints:

- Camps are predominately in natural areas, where the campers feel concealed and safer from elements and others
- Camps often move and could lead to once compliant facilities becoming noncompliant
- Some larger park agencies would have to establish multiple sites across their service area and purchasing, staffing and maintaining facilities will come at a cost
- An alternative would be to require public transit to stop near established storage sites

Please believe your parks and recreation agencies do everything we can – please do not put us in position of not being able to comply with state law.