

**Testimony of Anneliese Koehler, State and Regional Affairs Advisor
In Support of HB 3124
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
May 4, 2021**



Metro is the elected regional government that serves nearly 1.7 million people in the 24 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services that includes land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, housing and homeless services, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities like the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo.

Metro supports HB 3124. Ample notice for people experiencing homelessness to be removed from an established camping site and storing unclaimed personal property is in line with Metro's current practices.

Metro does have one area of concern with the bill that we've been working with Rep Lively to resolve. We also own and operate 14 historic cemeteries in Multnomah County. While significantly rarer than our parks and other Metro properties, occasionally we have folks camping in our cemeteries. Generally, we try to give at least a week's notice, but in our cemeteries when a funeral service is scheduled, we have had instances where we've given only 24 hours notice. We are working with Rep Lively on an amendment that would provide an exemption to the 72 hour notice at cemeteries with the narrow focus of only in instances where the camp is established with less than 72 hours from a funeral service or if a funeral service is scheduled with less than 72 hours notice. We urge the committee to consider this narrow exemption and adopt it.

We appreciate your time and consideration.