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Address
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To: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

From: Jim Etzel, Chief Executive Officer, Sport Oregon

Date: 3/28/2023

RE: House Bill 3515 - Portlanders need their parks and recreation facilities,
and we need your support!

Sport Oregon endorses House Bill 3515 and we ask that the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans Committee Members to support this bill as well. We believe this bill is good for Oregon's economy.

Thriving sports tourism is crucial to Oregon's economy, and Portland Parks & Recreation investments in hosting everything from NASCAR to marathons to national sports tournaments are critical.

Park and recreation districts can be an effective governance and a stable funding option to provide critical park and recreation services, but they are limited in being an effective option for cities because a city council is not allowed to be the governing body under current Oregon law.

House Bill 3515 proposes a state legislative change allowing a city governance option for cities with populations over 600,000 for park and recreation districts. This is not a new tax, and it does not create a new park and recreation special district. It provides future Portland voters the option to consider a city park and recreation district.

Please let voters in Portland decide what is best for their economy and their parks by supporting HB 3515.

Sincerely,

Jim Etzel