

March 7, 2023

Dear Oregon Legislators:

Hoyt Arboretum Friends brings people and trees together. We create meaningful learning experiences in a unique global tree collection that we nurture in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation.

We work daily with staff from Portland Parks & Recreation to provide welcoming places, programs and services that improve community health and our environment at the nearly 200 acre Hoyt Arboretum in SW Portland. To provide these services and steward our park lands, Portland's park system needs effective governance and funding options which is why we are strongly supportive of House Bill 3515 and urge you to support it as well.

We know parks and recreation services are essential to the Portland community! We support House Bill 3515 to modify the Park and Recreation District statute to allow for an additional city council governance option for cities with populations over 600,000 with the approval of the county in which the majority of the city lies if the district ballot measure includes a permanent rate for operating taxes.

Thanks for your consideration of this important bill, which will improve Portland's parks system and provide benefits across our city and region.

Sincerely,

Zh

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