

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

March 6, 2023

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice Chairs Lewis & Tran, and Members of the Committee,

Access for All, LLC supports the passage of House Bill 3515. It will modify the Park and Recreation District statute to allow for an additional city council governance option for cities with populations over 600,000.

Access for All, LLC (A4A) works to ensure people of all abilities, specifically people living with disabilities, are provided the right information and opportunities, to engage in outdoor recreation.

Opening up places, programs and services, improves community health and our environment. To provide these services, Portland's park system needs effective governance and funding options. Under current Oregon law, park and recreation districts are limited in providing critical park and recreation services for cities because a city council is not allowed to be the governing body.

This proposed bill aims to expand governance options for Portland, but does not remove any existing governance options, and does not create a park and recreation special district. Because this proposed bill is not creating a special district, there are no funding implications for this bill.

Parks and recreation services are essential to the Portland community. As Portland Parks & Recreation continues its ongoing work to adequately and sustainably fund critical park services, this legislative change would make a park and recreation district a more viable tool for Portland voters to consider in the future.

We encourage you to pass House Bill 3515.

Thank you,

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Georgena Moran, co-owner Access for All, LLC