



April 25, 2023

Co-Chairs Representative Susan McLain and Senator Lew Frederick  
Vice-Chairs Representative Shelly Boshart Davis and Senator Brian Boquist  
Joint Committee on Transportation

VIA OLIS

Re: Concerns re HB 3556 -2

Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

Washington County is the second most populous county in the state of Oregon, with over 600,000 people residing within the County. Since 1990, the county's population has nearly doubled in size, most recently our population has grown at a rate equivalent to 19 people moving in every day. This growth has made us one of the most rapidly growing and most diverse county in the state. We are also geographically diverse. We have dense, urban areas, smaller incorporated cities, and large areas of rural lands. Around all of these areas, county roads are impacted by the needs to be able to enforce and remove abandoned recreational vehicles.

Like many of our fellow local governments, Washington County has been working to find effective means for managing the concerns around abandoned recreational vehicles (RVs). As a county, we have implemented a program to help with the management of homeless encampments to reduce conflicts with the community and manage the potential impacts of the camp on resources. From our experience in the Encampment Management Program the current regulations around towing an abandoned RVs are not working.

This current framework results in the tow companies not towing RVs in the right-of-way that are tagged by a deputy and unsustainable costs being shouldered by local governments without support. Tagged RVs have sat on the side of the road for months because the tow companies won't take them.

The few RVs we have towed off County property as a part of homeless camp clean-ups and the cost was a challenge to the county. Not only did we have to tow the vehicles, we had to store them at a County facility for 30 days, and then we encountered another series of challenges to get them properly dismantled and disposed of. For example, the County contained, dismantled, removed, stored and disposed of a burned out RV on a County property last year. It is estimated that we paid upward of \$13,000, but those cost were extra high because it was burned out and considered hazardous waste with asbestos and other hazardous fluids. We need help funding our efforts and improving the system.

**County Administrative Office**

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However, the updates to the regulations that are proposed in the dash 2 amendments to HB 3556 will not improve our workload. The changes proposed through out the amendment raise a number of questions about the liabilities, costs, and new proceeding types the County would take on if we were to try to use the process outlined for any RV. We also do not know if the proposed fee will be sufficient to cover the increased costs the process included in the bill would create.

We are happy to answer any questions and look forward to finding a solution that is a win for everyone.

Sincerely,

Erin Doyle  
Senior Government Relations Manager  
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