



March 31, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation Co-Chair Senator Chris Gorsek
Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain

RE: HB 3209 Public Hearing, 03/31/2025

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

I am writing to express my **strong support for House Bill 3209** on behalf of Lane County. As the Parks Manager, I am in favor of HB 3209, as it solves multiple issues in our County parks and on our roads.

Recreational Vehicle Registration Fees

Parks and recreation facilities serve an invaluable role in our state.

- They bring families and friends together, making our neighborhoods stronger and communities more resilient.
- They provide opportunities for a healthier Oregon by creating a space for exercise, in addition to connecting us with the outdoors, strengthening our mental health.
- Our parks bring businesses to our state. It is well-known that companies looking to relocate determine in, in part, where they land by the recreational opportunities for their employees.
- They strengthen our economy by attracting tourism in every corner of Oregon. In 2022 Outdoor recreation spending in Oregon totaled \$16 billion and contributed to 192,000 jobs across our state.

It takes a system of well-maintained parks to provide these services highlighted above. Oregon State Parks and counties within the state greatly depend on recreational vehicle licensing fees. The current allocation supplies 55% of these fees toward Oregon's State Parks, while 45% help fund parks in each of Oregon's 36 counties.

Abandoned RV Fund

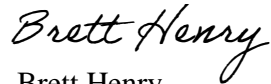
The growing issue of abandoned Recreation Vehicles (RV's) on our state and local roads is of serious concern and many times leads to environmental contamination. **These RV's are inhabitable, empty, and in serious disrepair.** Some are stripped of their interiors, some contain raw sewage, and some contain the remnants of abandoned drug labs. None of this belongs on our roadways.

When the owners cannot be found, the responsibility of disposing of them belong to the jurisdiction that owns and operates the road or park. On Lane County roads and parks, we spend thousands of dollars each year removing these vehicles, which is money that could be spent on maintenance of our parks and transportation system.

The Abandoned RV fee not only addresses the inappropriate disposal of recreational vehicles, but allows agencies to remove the burden of cleanup, remediation, and disposal from already cash-strapped state agencies and local jurisdictions.

I strongly ask for your support of HB 3209, which serves to make our parks and roads safer and environment cleaner!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brett Henry".

Brett Henry
Lane County Parks Manager