

March 31, 2025



RE: Please Support HB 3209

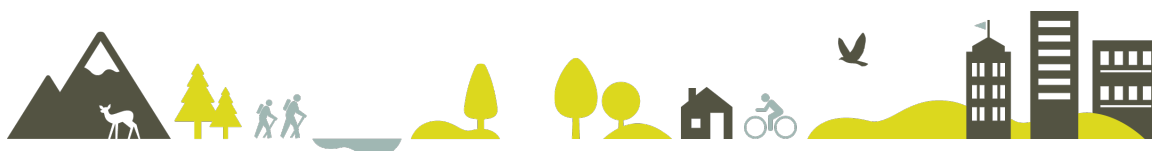
Dear Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of The Intertwine Alliance to urge your support for HB 3209, which adjusts RV registration fees and establishes an abandoned RV fund. The RV registration fee is a critical funding source for county parks, the only dedicated external funding they receive. It hasn't been increased in 25 years — though their operating costs have continued to soar.

The Intertwine Alliance is a Portland regional coalition of 80 private, public and nonprofit partners working to preserve and nurture a healthy regional system of parks, trails and natural areas. We work from a core belief that access to nature helps reduce disparities, is a core function of every neighborhood, and helps people enjoy healthy lives.

In the Portland region, our smaller park departments in Clackamas and Washington counties would be especially impacted by this legislation. These counties provide extensive accessible parks and nature service on very lean budgets. The Intertwine Alliance is in favor of any fair and equitable funding mechanism that would help these county parks providers stabilize, sustain and thrive—as this will directly benefit communities throughout our region. Increasing the amount Washington and Clackamas counties receives from the state revenue share from RV fees would bring in an estimated additional \$75,000 and \$89,000, respectively, per year. That would make a big difference for their small budgets.

The cost of towing abandoned RVs is very expensive, and counties have had to absorb those costs over the years. They primarily do this by taking money from O&M budgets that should be going to other purposes. This bill would mean counties would no longer have to cut services or reduce materials and supplies expenditure because someone dumped an RV on their property.



Parks and nature should be universally available to the public. They are essential to community and personal health. Most parks don't make revenue, but they do cost money to operate and maintain. With so much pressure on counties' limited existing budgets, the deferred maintenance list gets longer and longer. Without new funding, the only option at some point is to start closing parts of parks or amenities (bathrooms, etc.).

We ask you to support this fair and common sense bill and make it easier for county parks departments to provide their exceptional services to communities throughout our region.

Thank you for your leadership,

Sincerely,

Tara Wilkinson, Director
The Intertwine Alliance
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