



Subject: Opposition to Oregon House Bill 3209 - RV Registration and Trip Permit Surcharges

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Transportation,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Oregon House Bill 3209, which proposes a \$25 annual surcharge on RV registrations and a \$40 surcharge on RV trip permits. While I understand the need to address the issue of abandoned recreational vehicles in Oregon, I believe this bill unfairly and negatively impacts responsible RV owners and, in particular, our customers who are purchasing new or well-maintained used RVs.

My business, Curtis Trailers, Inc., with locations in Portland and Beaverton, relies on the sale of recreational vehicles to individuals and families who are eager to explore our beautiful state and enjoy the RV lifestyle responsibly. These are not the individuals who are contributing to the problem of abandoned vehicles. In fact, our customers are making significant investments in their RVs, demonstrating a commitment to ownership and responsible use.

Imposing an additional surcharge on registration, and a significant surcharge on trip permits, will disproportionately affect these responsible owners, especially those who are new to RVing or on a fixed income. This added cost may deter potential buyers from investing in RVs, directly impacting our business, and the broader RV industry in Oregon.

The RV industry provides significant contributions to the Oregon economy through tourism, local spending, and with the employment of thousands of people state-wide. Please don't add fees that will deter people from all that Oregon has to offer. We continue to feel the effects of inflation and new tariffs in our industry. Added fees will only make the RV lifestyle more difficult for those families and individuals with tight budgets.

Furthermore, I believe this bill fails to target the root cause of the abandoned RV problem. Placing a financial burden on all RV owners, regardless of their vehicle's condition or their history of responsible ownership, is an ineffective and unfair approach. It punishes those who are actively contributing to Oregon's economy through RV purchases, tourism, and related spending.

Instead of a blanket surcharge, I urge the committee to consider alternative solutions that more directly address the issue of abandoned vehicles. These could include:

- Increased enforcement and stricter penalties for those who abandon vehicles.

- Establishing clear and accessible pathways for the legal disposal of unwanted RVs.
- Exploring funding mechanisms that target the sources of the problem, rather than penalizing all RV owners.
- Working with local governments and communities to develop specific strategies for managing abandoned vehicles.

In conclusion, I believe House Bill 3209 is a misguided approach that will negatively impact responsible RV owners and businesses like mine without effectively solving the problem of abandoned recreational vehicles. I respectfully request that you reconsider this legislation and explore more targeted and equitable solutions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

Karra Blair
CEO/Owner
Curtis Trailers
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