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# OREGON'S RV DEALERS AND OWNERS OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 3209

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Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon RV Dealers Association (ORVDA) represents Oregon's franchised RV Dealers across the state. Our members provide sales, service, repairs and parts to RV owners whether they live in Oregon, or are visiting Oregon from out-of-state. RVs include pulled trailers, fifth wheels, and self-propelled vehicles.

Oregon's RV Dealers and RV owners oppose a new tax on only law-abiding RV owners living in Oregon, penalizing them for the actions of people who frequently are from out of state, and who generally are not part of the community who use RVs to recreate and enjoy the beauty of Oregon and the Northwest. Our objections to HB3209 include:

1. It is a tax increase;
2. It is a tax increase on a population of Oregonians who, despite generalizations to the contrary, includes many retired Oregonians on fixed incomes, many low income families who can best enjoy family vacations by means of relatively low cost RV camping (which allows them to cook "at home" and not pay high hotel costs). Many Oregonians live full time in RVs while continuing to pay registration fees;
3. The tax is indexed to inflation, so the tax will increase every two years without a vote of the Legislative Assembly;
4. Written testimony from bill requestor Oregon Recreation and Parks Association appears to suggest the bill will index *all* RV registration costs to inflation every two years, not just the new \$25 annual abandoned vehicle tax. We also oppose that expanded interpretation of the bill;
5. The tax is limited to only Oregon RV enthusiasts. An alternative proposal by ORVDA was a small transient RV tax on overnight stays in Oregon to appropriately tax out-of-state RVers visiting Oregon. This would acknowledge that an unknown number of abandoned RVs have never been owned or registered for use in Oregon; and
6. The list of supporters submitting written testimony is predominantly local government agencies (and a nonprofit association of government agencies).

The presence of abandoned RVs is a blite and an environmental issue of statewide significance. It is a symptom of our catastrophic failure to battle houselessness in Oregon. But cleaning up a prominent symptom of houselessness does not help solve the problem. And burdening only a small group of Oregonians will the cost of cleaning up a problem that impacts everyone in Oregon is simply unfair. It is a general public issue, and the solution should be exclusively a general fund expense.

I am happy to answer any questions.

*Please oppose House Bill 2642. Thank you.*