

April 14, 2025

Chair Ben Bowman
Members of the House Rules Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR. 97301

Chair Bowman and, Members of the Committee,

The Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) represents approximately 950 districts with 32 types of districts across the state that play a crucial role in delivering essential public services to our citizens, including fire protection, water supply, sanitation, libraries, parks and recreation, irrigation and more.

While we appreciate the intent behind this legislation, requiring all public meetings by elected public bodies to include a public comment period of reasonable duration to enhance transparency and public participation in government processes, we believe the bill as drafted, is overly complex. As a result, SDAO opposes HB 3887 and believe that HB 3883 is a better solution, with some clarification.

The definitions and procedural requirements outlined in HB 3887, such as those for "work sessions" introduce a new layer of intricacy that could create confusion for both public bodies and citizens. Essentially, this bill attempts to apply Legislative Assembly committee procedures to local government body public meetings, and we are concerned that two are not necessarily compatible.

We believe that transparency, public participation and accessibility are vital to our democracy and for building trust. We also believe that any new requirement for public participation during public meetings must be implemented in a manner that is clear and practical. While we support the intent behind HB 3997, we believe that it is overly complicated and as a result, we urge the committee to consider HB 3883 with modifications.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,



Mark Landauer
Lobbyist
Special Districts Association of Oregon