



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

725 Summer St. NE, Suite C

Salem, OR 97301-1271

(503) 986-0980

Fax (503) 986-0794

stateparks.oregon.gov

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Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2992. I am Lisa Sumption, Director of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). We requested this bill to provide our rangers and park managers an option to keep their home addresses confidential while performing their official duties. We are grateful with the unanimous support this bill received in the House.

Park rangers, in uniform, often work in remote areas enforcing rules as part of their official duties. Unfortunately, rangers have been threatened, harassed or assaulted while performing their duties. When this happens, staff may work with law enforcement to remove individuals from parks. Unfortunately, the ranger's home address is often entered into law enforcement and court records, automatically, instead of the park office.

For example, a park ranger at Silver Falls State Park was involved with an incident where a person in the day use area stole park equipment and threatened the ranger. The person was arrested after an altercation with police. The ranger was then surprised when he received court paperwork at his home after the incident. Not only did this mean the person who threatened him had his home address, it also left the ranger questioning whether this was an issue he should be addressing at home or at work.

In another instance, a ranger at Valley of the Rogue's teenage children home alone. As many families do, they had been taught not to open the door when their parents weren't home. A police officer came to his house with work-related paperwork that should have gone to the park office. As you can imagine, the ranger's 14-year-old daughter was very scared when an officer was walking around the yard and knocking on the door looking for her dad. This could have been avoided if the office address was listed in official documents.

HB 2992 would allow park and recreation department employees the option to request DMV substitute their agency address for their home address. Through the existing "Work in Lieu" program at DMV, staff from agencies including DOJ, OLCC, OYA and Department of Corrections as well as law enforcement are eligible to request their home addresses in DMV records be substituted for their office address. This bill simply adds OPRD employees to the list of eligible employees.

I am proud to support our park staff who are dedicated to the mission of providing outstanding recreational opportunities while protecting Oregon's special places for future generations. I ask you to help them protect their homes and families from additional risks by enacting HB 2992.