



May 12, 2025

**Board of Directors**

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Director

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Director

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Senator Kayse Jama, Chair  
Senate Committee On Rules  
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the Committee,

Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District (THPRD) is the largest special park district in Oregon, spanning 50 square miles and serving about 270,000 residents in and around Beaverton, Oregon. Established over 65 years ago, THPRD's mission is to provide natural areas, high-quality park and recreational facilities, programs, services, and natural areas that meet the needs of the diverse communities it serves. We strive to provide all individuals the opportunity to play, learn, and explore, and all employees and volunteers the opportunity to further the district's mission. We do this by removing barriers to participation, fostering an inclusive culture, and offering programs that celebrate the district's diverse population.

On behalf of the THPRD board of directors, I'm writing to express the district's support for SB 243A, specifically the sections pertaining to public restrictions on firearms. We would urge that this section include:

- A definition of local government that includes cities, counties and special districts; and,
- Authorization for local governments to adopt restrictions regarding the possession of firearms to buildings and adjacent grounds owned or controlled by them.

Recognizing our commitment to the safety of our patrons and community members, we believe the ability to regulate the presence of firearms within and around our facilities is an important step to help us achieve that goal. Additionally, THPRD seeks to reduce and de-escalate assaults on parks and recreation workers - removing potential firearms from those situations makes them that much safer.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Please contact Aisha Panas, Deputy General Manager, at [a.panas@thprd.org](mailto:a.panas@thprd.org) or by phone at 503-816-5804, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Barbie Minor, President  
THPRD Board of Directors