



May 28, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules

RE: HB 3569-A – OPPOSE

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Committee members,

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (“Friends”) is a nonprofit organization with approximately 4,000 members. Friends is dedicated to protecting and enhancing the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (“National Scenic Area” or “Gorge”).

**Friends opposes HB 3569-A**, which would require agencies to invite a bill’s chief sponsor to participate in the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) responsible for implementing that bill.

The core concern with this legislation is that it risks prioritizing the original intent of a single legislator over the final intent of the full legislature. As a bill progresses through the legislative process, it often undergoes substantial amendments and revisions. By the time a bill is enacted, its content may differ significantly from the original version proposed by the chief sponsor. Granting that sponsor a formal role in the rulemaking process could give them disproportionate influence in interpreting legislation that has already been shaped and approved by the entire unnecessary legislative body.

Additionally, placing a legislator on a RAC could create a power imbalance. Because legislators control agency budgets and can pass laws that directly impact agencies, their presence on a RAC may unduly sway the deliberative process. This could undermine the neutrality and collaborative nature of RACs and risk politicizing what should be an impartial and technical process.

Finally, the bill is unnecessary. RAC meetings are already open to the public and include opportunities for public comment, ensuring transparency and access for all, including legislators. Lawmakers can remain informed and engaged without compromising the structure and balance of the rulemaking process.

For these reasons, **we respectfully urge you to vote no on HB 3569-A.**

Sincerely,  
Madison Kenney  
Advocacy & Policy Coordinator