



TO: Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

FROM : Cindy Robert, Oregon Recreation and Park Association

DATE: February 9, 2026

RE: Concerns about SB 1585

The Oregon Recreation and Park Association includes city, county and special district parks agencies, and 2,200 park and recreation professionals, organizations, and volunteers.

Our specific concern with SB 1585 is regarding the proposed amendments which we are told will include the parks Local Government Grant Program in ORS 390.135.

With Ballot Measure 66 in 1998, Oregon voters approved a constitutional amendment dedicating 15% of net lottery proceeds to state parks, beaches, and habitat restoration. Voters confirmed this desire with Ballot Measure 76 in 2010.

These funds are administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) which then allots a portion of the dollars for the Local Government Grant Program to help your local parks agencies. The match rates for local governments are set in rule for that program, not statute, for flexibility, and those rules already have a lower match rate for small cities, counties and special districts.

Two additional factors that make this grant program different than most others in state government: There is a provision that allows an applicant to request a lower match due to economic hardship. As example, last year OPRD was able to help Coos County have a lower match requirement for their request. Also, OPRD allows labor, equipment and property value to count toward match. We are concerned that inclusion in SB 1585 may lead to changes in these special provisions.

We urge removal of the Local Government Grant Program - ORS 390.135 (2)(c) – from the list of state grants that will be included in SB 1585.

Thank you for your consideration and your public service.