



Memorandum

To: Clackamas County Board of County Commissioners
From: Tonia Holowetzki, Director, Public & Government Affairs
RE: HB 3209 – Abandon Recreational Vehicles (RVs)
Date: February 4, 2025

Request: PGA is seeking the BCC's position on [House Bill 3209](#) and whether to provide the county's logo for a letter of support requested by the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association (OPRA).

Background: Abandoned RVs are considered hazardous waste due to the presence of fuel, propane, human waste, drug paraphernalia, and the presence of asbestos in older RVs. Currently, Clackamas County bears the cost of RV removal and remediation. State funding may defray local costs. HB 3209 would also result in increased funds to county parks. Clackamas County has been asked by OPRA to consider participating in a logo letter in support of HB 3209. The bill proposes to:

1. Increase RV registration fees for inflation (fees were last increased in 2001) and index for future increases. These revenues are currently shared by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and counties to support state and county parks.
2. Establish an abandoned RV disposal fee surcharge on registration fees and recreational vehicle trip permit fees. These revenues would be deposited into an account to help reimburse the costs of towing and disposing of abandoned vehicles. New surcharges sunset after 10 years.

Specific fee changes are outlined in the accompanying HB 3209 logo letter of support. Fees are assessed at the time of vehicle registration and collected by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The League of Oregon Cities, Washington County, Hood River County, Jackson County, and Lane County have opted to participate in the logo letter.

Recommendation: PGA recommends the county support House Bill 3209.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonia Holowetzki
Director, Public & Government Affairs

Attachments: HB 3209 Logo Letter of Support – 1/22/2025

HB 3209

One Bill- Two Fixes

**See backside for list of supporters*

Adjusts RV Registration Fees

RV registration fees are shared between the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and **all 36 counties** for the sole purpose of maintaining state and county parks. They are a critical funding piece for ensuring Oregon's parks support tourism. **Fees have not been increased in 24 years** (were adjusted in 2007, but were actually *decreased* at the time). Revenues are split 55% to OPRD and 45% to counties.

Like all other services, parks and recreation is drastically impacted by historic inflation, while key revenues, such as RV registration have remained unchanged.

Legislation Actions

Increases RV registration fees to adjust for inflation (fees were **last increased in 2001**) and indexes to account for future increases based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers, West Region. Proposed **biennial** registration fee changes are below in **bold**.

- Trailers or campers that are 6 to 10 feet in length, [\$81] **\$125**.
- Trailers or campers over 10 feet in length, [\$81] **\$125** plus \$7 a foot for each foot of length over the first 10 feet.
- Motor homes that are 6 to 14 feet in length, [\$86] **\$132**.
- Motor homes over 14 feet in length, [\$126] **\$194** plus \$8 a foot for each foot of length over the first 10 feet.
- For a recreational vehicle trip permit, [\$35] **\$50**.

By the Numbers

- Oregon's 36 counties manage **5,808** total campsites
- OPRD manages **5,665** total campsites
- **In 2022 Outdoor Recreation spending in Oregon totaled \$16 BILLION and contributed to 192,000 jobs.** Well-maintained parks are pivotal to this impact.

Estimated Increased Revenue

Counties- \$1,500,000 Annually
OPRD- \$1,870,000 Annually

Establishes Abandoned RV Fund

Abandoned RV's continue to plague our public spaces, placing a large financial burden on all levels of government. HB 3209 creates a funding source to pay for removal and disposal of abandoned RVs.

Most abandoned RVs are not in operable condition, require specialized (haz-mat) clean-up, and have nearly zero salvage value to offset removal and disposal costs. **Many can cost up to \$5,000 for removal and disposal.**

Modeled on a successful State of Washington program, the legislation creates a new user fee that would go to a dedicated statewide RV disposal fund to be managed by ODOT. **This bill does not change existing law governing the circumstances under which an abandoned RV may be removed. It is solely focused on cost recovery.** This section of the bill has a 10-year sunset.

- Creates \$25 annual abandoned recreational vehicle disposal fee paid at the time of biennial registration
- Fee proposed at \$40 when using trip permit in lieu of biennial registration

By The Numbers

- 185,000 campers, travel trailers, and motor homes registered in 2023.
- At a \$25/year disposal fee
- Raises \$4.6m/year or \$9.2m/biennium.
- Average for tow and disposal is \$5,000 each
- Will fund the removal/disposal of estimated 925 RVs per year.

For more information please contact

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Supporters

