JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 30

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 5, 2019

RE: Vote explanation for Senate Bill 543

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I applaud the efforts of the sponsors of this bill and their continued advocacy in supporting out-of-school programs that benefit the children of Oregon. Though I am committed to working on this issue of access for programs and opportunities for kids and families, I felt strongly that this bill was not the most efficient and effective avenue to get there. I was a no vote on SB 543, but not without serious attempts to request that the bill language be improved to bring the communities of Hillsboro, Beaverton and Washington County to a place where they could be neutral or even supportive of the bill. In doing my research on this bill, I became concerned about several things.

- The growing concerns of compression issues for Washington County.
- That this is a permanent tax, once established. It would not go through a renewal process, much like libraries, police, fire and school levies do. I believe voters want to be assured and have proven results that their tax money is invested wisely and shows results.
- The ability to narrow a special district, under this bill, to a neighborhood is alarming in that more affluent neighborhoods may gain a disproportionate number of benefits, while low-income neighborhoods may not benefit.
- The potential dissolution of special districts under this bill would be disruptive to the community, as it encourages expensive and unnecessary litigation and uncertainty.
- The creation of new special districts could create competition and take funds away from those that are already working and helping our community kids.
- I am concerned that it places burden on an already broken property tax system that can lead to tax fatigue and jeopardize important community needs and services.

Additional concerns were flagged by Hillsboro to me that even though we have well established that cities have to approve the formation of a children's service district within city territory before it can take effect, Hillsboro, and potentially other cities, have urban planning areas (urban reserves or areas inside the UGB that are not yet annexed). Cities do not have the ability approve the formation of a children's service district for those areas, and once established, cities would not be able to withdraw those areas from a children's service district when they are eventually annexed. This sets up an awkward phenomenon when one property may be subject to taxation from a children's service district and an adjacent property may not be, depending when properties are annexed. In House District 30 there is a significant amount of land in North Hillsboro that is inside the UGB but is not yet annexed – but will be annexed in the future. I think it is important to give cities the authority to approve the formation of a children's service district for those areas to avoid inequities between properties in taxation.

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I was hopeful to find a solution that never did present itself and there were too many concerns which regrettably prevented my support of SB 543.

Sincerely,

Janeen Sollman

Oregon State Representative – House District 30

Serving the communities of: Banks, North Plains, Hillsboro, and Beaverton

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