

March 9, 2015

Representative Phil Barnhart, Chair  
House Revenue Committee

Re: SB 611

Dear Chair Barnhart,

I write in support of the League of Oregon Cities' proposed amendments to SB 611. The Gresham City Council has taken a very reasonable position on central assessment, hoping to preserve existing sources of revenue while also opening the door to new technology and subsequent economic growth.

We believe that the League of Oregon Cities' proposed amendments accomplish this delicate balance. For context, property tax revenues are extremely important to Gresham's ability to maintain public safety services, with Gresham's police department alone requiring more revenue than Gresham receives in property taxes each year. That is why finding a balance on this issue and protecting existing revenue sources is so important.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to express Gresham's support for the proposed amendments, and for compromise and certainty on the issue of central assessment.

Sincerely,



Eric Chambers  
Government Affairs Director