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The Honorable Michael Dembrow
The Honorable Kim Thatcher
Oregon Senate Committee on Workforce
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

April 20, 2015

Submitted via email to Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

Re: Senate Bill 814

Dear Senators Dembrow, Thatcher, and Members of the Workforce Committee:

I write to express my grave concern regarding Senate Bill 814, which would divest cities and counties of significant power they currently enjoy under the Oregon Constitution and Oregon state law.

By way of background, I teach local government law at Willamette University and have authored numerous law review articles related to local government law. My article, "The Partly Fulfilled Promise of Home Rule in Oregon," in the 2009 Oregon Law Review symposium issue commemorating 150 years of the Oregon Constitution, analyzed Oregon's home-rule system in depth. You may find the article online at this web link: <http://law.uoregon.edu/org/olrold/archives/87/Diller.pdf>.

SB 814 would deny local governments the ability to enact paid sick-leave and other ordinances. In doing so, it would deprive cities of their ability to stimulate policy innovation in numerous realms. One of the benefits of Oregon's system of home rule is that it allows cities and counties to innovate with respect to public policy. If they enact a policy that proves effective and popular, other cities around the state and country often choose to enact similar policies. Some policies are so effective and popular that the state or other states choose to emulate them.

A preemption provision with the breadth of SB 814 would prohibit Oregon cities or counties from leading in regulating paid sick-leave and other workplace benefits. In doing so, it would stymie policy innovation and sap local government of its unique ability to solve

problems, leaving more problems for the state – and the state alone – to solve. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee choose not to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/

Paul A. Diller