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February 2, 2016

Senator Hass
Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Re: Senate Joint Resolution 201

I am writing to support your work on Senate Joint Resolution 201. This bill, which refers Constitutional changes to voters, would modify the local property tax, removing an assigned assessed value to instead use real market value for purposes of assessment. This would be a significant change to address current equity issues where similarly priced properties do not pay the same property tax.

I also support the homestead exemption as a better mechanism to address housing affordability for low- and very-low-income people. This mechanism should alleviate some of the challenges that can make it difficult, especially for senior citizens, to remain in their current homes. Like other cities in Oregon, Corvallis continues to face a housing affordability issue; so reducing barriers to staying in a home is important.

I am hopeful that through the hearing process more of the details about how this change would be implemented, how the homestead exemption would work, and the impact on local government revenue will become clear.

Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Traber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

Bill Traber
Mayor, City of Corvallis