



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

555 Liberty St. SE / Room 305 • Salem, OR 97301-3503 • (503) 588-6173 • (503) TTY 588-6353 • (503) Fax 588-6005

February 17, 2016

SUBJECT: **Senate Bill 1573**

Dear Oregon Legislators,

The City of Salem opposes SB 1573, which would essentially require cities to annex a territory without a public vote when all land owners in the territory submit a petition. The bill runs counter to the City of Salem Charter, which requires annexations to be approved by voters except in limited circumstances. This requirement was added to the charter by a vote of the people on petition-initiated Ballot Measure 24-34 on May 16, 2000. Our voter-approval process therefore reflects the will of the people.

Since the charter was changed in 2000, 149 territories have been put to voters for potential annexation. All but one of those proposed annexations have been approved by voters. The voter-approval process has therefore not been an impediment to annexations in Salem.

In addition, the City of Salem generally opposes legislation that preempts our local authority.

The City of Salem urges you to oppose SB 1573.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Gross", written in a cursive style.

Glenn Gross  
Community Development Director

cc: Steve Powers, City Manager  
Kacey Duncan, Deputy City Manager