



## City of Tigard

March 6, 2017

Dear Honorable members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Trade,

I am writing to express my concern with **House Bill 2470** which proposes major changes to urban renewal.

The City of Tigard currently has a successful urban renewal district in downtown, which has stimulated millions of dollars of private investment and improved pedestrian safety. Tigard is also in the process of requesting voter approval for a second district to fund projects in the Tigard Triangle, an area with significant infrastructure needs.

As the chair of Tigard's urban renewal board, I am concerned that the requirements of HB 2470 would greatly impede urban renewal as a tool for cities. HB 2470 would require each taxing district to have a representative on the local urban renewal board. In Tigard's case, that would mean adding nine more representatives to the five current members of the Tigard City Council, making a board of 14 members. I believe this would be an unwieldy board to make decisions and it might be difficult to get a quorum.

HB 2470 would also give each taxing jurisdiction veto power over forming new districts. This would make it extremely hard to form new districts. I believe that existing Oregon law works well and already requires consultation and input from affected overlapping taxing districts. In developing its recently proposed second urban renewal district, Tigard staff worked closely with taxing jurisdictions and made several adjustments to the plan based on their feedback.

In sum, I believe HB 2470 would hamper the use of an important tool for economic and community development and eliminate home rule, which allows local voices to make local choices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John L. Cook, Mayor  
Chair, City Center Development Agency Board  
City of Tigard