



March 14, 2017

Rep. Ann Lininger, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development and Trade
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in opposition to House Bill 2470

Dear Chair Lininger and Committee Members,

On August 25, 2016, the City of Milwaukie established an urban renewal district to help spark redevelopment in the downtown and central Milwaukie areas. Over the next 20 years, the renewal program will help fund public projects intended to encourage new private investment – investment that has eluded Milwaukie during the recovery from the Great Recession.

By requiring large, unwieldy urban renewal boards consisting of members of other affected taxing district, HB 2470 will make it much more difficult for cities like Milwaukie to operate their urban renewal programs. For Milwaukie, the bill would require that we add representatives from 12 affected taxing districts to the current renewal board which includes only the five city council members. HB 2470 would result in the need to create a renewal board that no longer has a focus on what is best for Milwaukie. The bill is unnecessary given that existing law requires consultation and input from affected overlapping taxing districts for adoption and major amendments of urban renewal plans.

I respectfully request that you not pass this bill out of the committee.

Sincerely,

Mark Gamba, Mayor
City of Milwaukie