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Chair Michael Dembrow  
Members of the Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Dembrow and Committee Members:

I am writing to express support for SB 114 and SB 258 as they repeal SB 1573.

The citizens of Corvallis highly value their ability to express their support of, or opposition to, a particular annexation through voter approval of those annexations. SB 1573's potential for unconstrained expansion of Corvallis flies in the face of the community desire to participate fully in the process of the growth and evolution of our city.

The citizens of Corvallis placed this requirement for voter approval for annexations in our charter forty years ago. Since then, the city expanded and will continue to do so with community support communicated through an election.

Last year, we objected strongly to SB 1573's pre-emption of our charter's voter approval of annexations provision. After passage of SB 1573, the City Council approved legal action to redress this legislative attempt to overrule our home rule rights. Even though the legal effort is underway, I support and prefer the legislative redress of repealing SB 1573. This is the most direct and straightforward remedy.

I urge you to repeal SB 1573 by passing SB114 and/or SB 258.

Sincerely,

Biff Traber  
Mayor

cc: Erin Doyle, League of Oregon Cities  
City Legislative Committee members