

March 14, 2017

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors Consortium

Mayor Denny Doyle

City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson

City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin

City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado

City of Durham

Mayor Ted Tosterud

City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Tammy Stempel

City of Gladstone

Mayor Shane Bemis

City of Gresham

Mayor Lori DeRemer

City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway

City of Hillsboro

Mayor Ken Gibson

City of King City

Mayor Kent Studebaker

City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie

City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba

City of Milwaukie

Mayor David Hatcher

City of North Plains

Mayor Dan Holladay

City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland

Mayor Heather Kibbey

City of Rivergrove

Mayor Krisanna Clark

City of Sherwood

Mayor John Cook

City of Tigard

Mayor Casey Ryan

City of Troutdale

Mayor Lou Ogden

City of Tualatin

Mayor Russ Axelrod

City of West Linn

Mayor Tim Knapp

City of Wilsonville

Mayor Timothy Clark

City of Wood Village

Chair Barnhart, Members of the House Revenue Committee
House Revenue Committee
900 Court Street NE,
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to HB 2363

Dear Chair Barnhart & Members of the House Revenue Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors Consortium (MMC), representing the mayors of twenty-five cities in the Portland Metropolitan area, strongly opposes HB 2363, which, if passed, would have negative impacts on cities' public safety budgets. There is a direct nexus between property and public safety, and as such, most cities spend more just on public safety than they collect in property taxes. Were this bill to pass it would decrease cities' public safety budgets, which would lead to the reduction of police and fire services.

In the Metro region, all three of the counties have healthy permanent rates, with Multnomah County's rate being higher than many of the cities in the county. A further erosion of the already scarce property tax base would cause disproportionate harm to those jurisdictions that are least able to absorb the lost revenue.

Moreover, County charters clearly spell out the list of services they are required to provide. Counties are responsible to provide these services whether they receive direct reimbursements or not. Similarly, city charters also clearly spell out the services that they are required to provide. It is unreasonable to single out and directly compensate counties for a specific service that they are already required to provide. Doing so would create a slippery slope that could eviscerate an already fragile property tax system.

We urge the committee to vote "no" on HB 2363 and protect public safety budgets across the state.

Respectfully,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium