



# CITY OF West Linn

May 10, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair  
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2095

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the West Linn City Council to express the City's **strong support for HB 2095**, which will improve the way that our region manages residential growth.

HB 2095 gives Metro authority to make modest residential Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) adjustments midway through the existing state-mandated six-year urban growth cycle. This will allow our region to be more nimble in responding to market demand for housing by allowing Metro to accommodate proposals from cities that demonstrate the need and ability to adjust (expand slightly) UGB margins in their jurisdiction. Prior to requesting an expansion of the UGB, a city will need to have completed advance concept planning for the area, including demonstrating availability of funds for infrastructure, addressing governance and annexation questions, and confirming market feasibility of the proposed housing.

Our region has been working for years to create a more strategic approach to managing growth. A key element has been putting cities in charge of the planning for new urban areas. The City of West Linn believes strongly in this approach and believes that UGB expansions should only occur following city-led concept planning that reflect local needs and solutions. We have limited land suitable for development outside of the UGB, and are always working to balance future development with needed protection of important farm, forest and natural resource land. HB 2095 supports all of these goals.

HB 2095 was developed by a Task Force of 14 regional mayors, county chairs, Metro councilors, home builders and land conservation groups and therefore represents broad regional consensus.

For all of these reasons we urge your support of HB 2095. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Axelrod  
Mayor  
City of West Linn