

1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway | Gresham, OR 97030

February 12, 2017

The Honorable Representative Kenny-Guyer, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Dear Chair Kenny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

I write to express the City of Gresham's support for HB 2773, which would move the administration of Oregon's Vertical Housing Development Zone (VHDZ) program to local government agencies. Gresham, as are other local government agencies, is well-equipped to prudently assume the responsibility of administering this effective program. Cities already administer other property tax abatement programs, often in much more complicated economic development scenarios.

The VHDZ program has been an asset for Gresham, helping spark three key development projects in Historic Downtown Gresham. Local administration of the program will keep it front-of-mind, and open the door for it to continue to be an effective component of the City's redevelopment strategy, ensuring projects that contribute to the community and its urban form.

Sincerely,



Eric Chambers
Government Relations Director