

February 17, 2017

The Honorable Senator Sara Gelser, Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

I write to express the City of Gresham's support for SB 310, 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