



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

February 21, 2018

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
900 Court Street, NE, HR B
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 4054-A

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 4054-A to remove statutory barriers impeding the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and City of Portland from applying a consistent and coordinated approach to managing and cleaning up encampments.

There is a patchwork of property within the City of Portland owned by different jurisdictions. Separate settlement agreements and governing state statutes have created barriers to coordination for ODOT and the City of Portland on lands within the City's boundaries. HB 4054-A creates an opportunity for ODOT to initiate an intergovernmental agreement with Portland under a consistent standard.

The City of Portland has demonstrated its ability to successfully manage cleanups in a coordinated and compassionate way. The City cooperates with social service providers, provides additional training to vendors performing cleanups, and differentiates between high-impact and low-impact encampments in its response. Removing statutory barriers to better management of public spaces and services across jurisdictions will improve the City's ability to address the causes and symptoms of homelessness with compassion, and improve public trust in government.

We seek a consistent approach across the City and believe this bill provides a pathway to make that happen. The City of Portland urges your support for HB 4054-A. Thank you for your consideration.

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Chloe Eudaly
Commissioner