

Testimony of Anneliese Koehler, State and Regional Affairs Advisor
Joint Interim Committee on First Special Session 2020
June 23, 2020



President Courtney, Speaker Kotek and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today to urge your support for legislation that enables local governments to operate during emergencies, extends the moratorium on residential evictions and enacts much needed police reform.

Local government emergency operations

Local governments, including Metro, need flexibility with respect to requirements for official local government processes and decisions to enable continued government operations during an emergency related to infectious disease. This includes requirements related to public meetings, quorum and more. Sections of LC 45/LC 84 addresses many of those concerns, and we urge the Legislature to adopt these provisions.

Residential eviction moratorium

Metro supports policies that help everyone have a safe place to call home. A moratorium on residential evictions and a lengthy repayment period will help ensure that our community members are able to stay in their homes while navigating the financial uncertainty wrought by COVID-19. We urge the Legislature to pass a strong residential eviction moratorium and repayment period.

Police reform

Metro supports legislation that acknowledges past discrimination, addresses current disparities and promotes inclusion in public programs, services, facilities and policies, including Black, Indigenous and People of Color-led policy and funding proposals that create meaningful police reform. We urge the Legislature to pass policies raised by the People of Color Caucus and others that take steps towards reforming our police system.

Thank you for your consideration.