

Mayor Mark Gamba, City of Milwaukie  
10722 SE Main St  
Milwaukie, OR 97222

February 20, 2019

Senate Revenue Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SJR 2 and SJR 21

Chair Haas,

The City of Milwaukie unanimously supports SJR 2 and SJR 21, two measures that would reverse the damaging effects of Measure 50.

While Milwaukie is a growing and vibrant city, our growth is predominantly infill development. Therefore, we do not have the luxury of bringing in large undeveloped parcels into our UGB that are less constrained by Measures 5 and 50. This constraint has led to an evergrowing disconnect between property values and the taxes our city needs to provide essential services for our residents. Schools, parks, and public safety are all hamstrung by an arbitrary property tax system and cannot shift or change based on the needs of our community.

Properties that had experienced the greatest value growth between 1995 - 1996 and 1997 - 1998 received the greatest cuts in assessed value and consequently, in taxes. In some cases, residents least able to shoulder the extra burden are being forced to pay more while others developing in areas of high property values are paying less in property taxes. It is time for us to make smart and equitable fixes to our property tax system.

Sincerely,



Mayor Mark Gamba

