



Office of Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

March 11, 2019

Representative Jennifer Williamson
House Judiciary Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2328 to address the stolen car epidemic in Oregon, the impacts of which are felt acutely in the City of Portland. HB 2328 closes a loophole created by recent case law that has led to significant difficulty in prosecuting car theft in our state.

Every week, I receive calls and emails from community members who are immensely frustrated and concerned with car thefts in Portland. Portland Police Bureau statistics show that in 2018 motor vehicle thefts were 86% higher than in 2012. The data also shows that the top stolen car models are older and that this epidemic is disproportionately impacting low income Oregonians. The rising frequency of car thefts, due in part to difficulties prosecuting these crimes, has visible and inequitable impacts across Portland.

Thank you for taking up this very important issue impacting the lives of far too many Oregonians. I urge your support for HB 2328.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ted Wheeler