



CITY OF GRESHAM

April 1, 2019

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Se. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 431-2

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gresham supports SB 431, along with the -2 amendments proposed for the bill. SB 431-2 represents a huge effort to work collaborative in a partnership comprised of many different interests, in a collective effort to work together and solve a problem. Gresham has been part of this partnership from the beginning, engaging the Oregon Solutions process to identify how best to ensure recertification of the Columbia levy system, make any necessary large-scale capital improvements, and conduct the work of the existing drainage districts in the future.

This multi-year, multi-agency process has broken through a classic collective action problem, and resulted in a shared path forward. That shared path forward now depends on the Legislature's approval of SB 431-2, which will establish the governmental structure necessary to protect the Columbia levy, and the economic development and habitat assets it protects, in perpetuity. We urge the Committee's support.

Sincerely,

Eric Chambers
Government Relations Director