



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

April 19, 2019

Senator Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE, HR E
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 5030 – Lottery Bond Funding

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee,

The City of Portland strongly supports inclusion of lottery bond funding for the following projects in HB 5030:

- \$20 million to capitalize a grant fund for seismic retrofits of unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings as proposed in HB 2208-A;
- \$10 million for the Levee Project Subaccount as proposed in SB 432-A;
- \$10 million to recapitalize the Brownfield Redevelopment Fund; and
- \$25 million for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Extension Project.

HB 2208 establishes a competitive statewide grant program to help fund seismic retrofits of structures that will impact the public's safety, mobility, and recovery after an earthquake. Unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings that house low-income residents and provide community services will be essential to disaster recovery, but these structures have the greatest financial barriers to retrofitting. Establishing and capitalizing this grant program, with eligibility open to for-profit and non-profit owned buildings, creates a critical incentive for retrofits of the large number of non-governmental URM structures that will impact the public's life safety, mobility and recovery after a major earthquake.

The levees along the Columbia River are important infrastructure that serves the entire Portland Metropolitan region. Thousands of properties protected by levees systems around Oregon are at risk of losing access to the National Flood Insurance Program due to new federal policies for levee accreditation in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy. Failure to maintain accreditation would result in significant economic impact to property owners in the affected areas. SB 432 will provide funding for planning and construction of levee improvement projects, which is an urgent need in the Portland Metropolitan Region and other areas of the state protected by levees.

The City supports recapitalization of the Brownfield Redevelopment Fund to catalyze the cleanup and redevelopment of properties that are contaminated or suspected to be contaminated. Cleanup and redevelopment of these brownfield sites supports local and regional economic growth and protects human and environmental health and water quality.

A safe, reliable and robust public transit system is critical to reducing congestion and moving people more efficiently around the region. The City supports funding for the Southwest Corridor Light Rail Extension Project, which furthers the Portland-Metro region's goals around mobility, congestion, safety, and equity.

Investing in the safety of Oregonians and the infrastructure of our state is investing in our future. The City of Portland respectfully urges your support for these strategic investments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



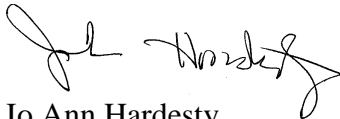
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