



February 19, 2020

Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Natural Resources
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, H-174
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon,

Milwaukie City Council is writing to express its support for the passage of a strong and comprehensive SB 1530.

We know time is slipping out of our hands, and that we need leadership on every level of government and from our business community in order to address the threat of the climate crisis. Just a few weeks ago, Milwaukie became the first city in Oregon to declare a climate emergency, moving up our already aggressive carbon reduction goals by five years and making further commitments to help our community move the needle on climate change. We need the state to join us in this work as quickly and as aggressively as possible.

Climate change is already affecting Milwaukie's residents, and it's only going to get worse the longer we fail to take meaningful action. Right now, our most vulnerable residents suffer from serious health impacts when wildfires burn through our forests, as they did in 2017. Long spells of extreme heat create high electricity bills for those who even have air conditioning, and cause undue suffering and health complications for those who do not. A storm event in December of 2015 caused extensive damage to the bridge in Milwaukie Bay Park, also known as the Kellogg Bridge. As a result, the city had to completely rebuild the structure to restore connectivity and reengineer it to accommodate increased flooding in the future.

Our city is investing in a climate-friendly future. Our new library is 50 percent larger than our old one, but due to a highly efficient design, it uses twenty percent of the energy of the old library. Solar panels on the roof provide much of the building's annual energy use, and it is enrolled in the Oregon Energy Trust's Path to Net Zero program. By building SAFE routes to school, we are providing miles of bike and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure to encourage students to walk or bike to school. In the first phase, we are building more than \$5,000,000 in sidewalk and multi-use paths across the city; when completed, we will have invested over \$58 million and build more than 36 miles of sidewalk. A recent Regional Flexible Fund Allocation grant for \$3.8 million means that we will finally begin the final design and build for the Monroe Street Greenway, another project that will help connect our residents to the greater regional bike/ped and mass transit infrastructure. We've made significant progress



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towards electrifying the city's fleet, and are proud to be home to one of PGE's first Electric Avenue fast charging stations.

The list goes on, but with the very limited resources of a city, we can only do so much to reduce our community's carbon emissions. Partnerships are one of the single most effective tools we have for turning the tide on carbon emissions. We need the state to step up and become a strong partner with us in this fight.

Sincerely,

Milwaukie City Council



Mark Gamba, Mayor



Angel Falconer, Council President



Lisa Batey, Councilor



Wilda Parks, Councilor



Kathy Hyzy, Councilor