

March 17, 2021

# MMC

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## Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

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**Mayor Lacey Beaty**

City of Beaverton

**Mayor Brian Hodson**

City of Canby

**Mayor Jeffrey Dalin**

City of Cornelius

**Mayor Gery Schirado**

City of Durham

**Mayor Brian Cooper**

City of Fairview

**Mayor Peter Truax**

City of Forest Grove

**Mayor Travis Stovall**

City of Gresham

**Mayor Tom Ellis**

City of Happy Valley

**Mayor Steve Callaway**

City of Hillsboro

**Mayor Ken Gibson**

City of King City

**Mayor Joe Buck**

City of Lake Oswego

**Mayor Mark Hardie**

City of Maywood Park

**Mayor Mark Gamba**

City of Milwaukie

**Mayor Teri Lenahan**

City of North Plains

**Mayor Ted Wheeler**

City of Portland

**Mayor Walt Williams**

City of Rivergrove

**Mayor Keith Mays**

City of Sherwood

**Mayor Jason Snider**

City of Tigard

**Mayor Randy Lauer**

City of Troutdale

**Mayor Frank Bubenik**

City of Tualatin

**Mayor Anne McEnerny-Ogle**

City of Vancouver (ex officio)

**Mayor Jules Walters**

City of West Linn

**Mayor Julie Fitzgerald**

City of Wilsonville

**Mayor Scott Harden**

City of Wood Village

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair  
Representative Daniel Bonham, Vice-Chair  
Representative Dacia Grayber, Vice-Chair  
House Business and Labor Committee

Re: Support for HB 2743

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Grayber, and Members of the Committee:

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium represents the mayors of twenty-four cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its support for HB 2743.

Since state and federal dollars for local government infrastructure are limited, MMC cities continually face the challenge of how to fund the infrastructure maintenance and improvement that is vital to economic development and livability in our communities. Housing insecurity is also a chronic issue in many MMC cities due to the high cost of housing in the metro region, and we are always looking for ways to fund more affordable housing for our residents. Currently, when our cities take out loans for public projects, they end up paying millions in interest and fees on the money they borrow from private banks. In addition to making projects significantly more expensive, this means that those millions of dollars are not being invested in our communities.

For these reasons, the MMC supports HB 2743, which establishes a legal framework for Oregon cities to create public banks either by themselves, or in partnership with other municipalities. Public banks can fund infrastructure, affordable housing, and other public-benefit projects at lower interest rates and fees than conventional banks, saving as much as 40% to 50% over the life of a 30-year bond. They also enable more loans for businesses and projects in our communities by increasing access to funds at lower cost and enabling larger loans for community projects.

HB 2743 ensures separation between local governments and municipal banks, and it does not place any new requirements on cities. It also does not give any new power to cities, but rather clarifies their authority to create municipal banks in statute. The bill is revenue neutral

The Mayors of the MMC urge the Committee to support HB 2743, and we look forward to continuing to work together with the Oregon Legislature to address infrastructure and affordable housing funding needs in our cities. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Mayors of the MMC