



April 14, 2021

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: City of Beaverton Testimony on American Rescue Plan Act Funding**

Dear Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair Rayfield, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means:

Thank you for the chance to provide input on the unique opportunity that the American Rescue Plan Act funding offers to Oregon.

The challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic are significant. From cities to small towns, Oregonians – particularly people of color, immigrants, and low-wage workers – are facing a deep economic crisis. The American Rescue Plan Act offers an opportunity for state and local officials to focus these one-time dollars on creating a more inclusive economic recovery – one that addresses the deep economic and racial inequalities that preceded and were laid bare by the pandemic.

The City of Beaverton stands ready to coordinate with the state on investments that meet our communities' needs, such as supporting homeownership access, housing and job creation, resilient infrastructure, and robust economic growth – all while achieving a stronger and more equitable future. I believe we share values around key areas in which state and local investment can have a significant impact:

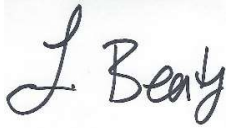
- First, homeownership and generational wealth creation should not be just a dream. Beaverton, as a city that thrives on its diversity, wants that dream to become reality for lower-income, BIPOC families, and other historically disadvantaged populations. Using American Rescue Plan Act funding to acquire existing, naturally affordable single detached homes can make real progress for families in communities across Oregon.
- These federal dollars can also be used to provide Oregon's houseless population with safe housing and targeted wrap-around services. Year-round shelters can begin the continuum of housing and stability needed to have successful employment and keep children in school.

- One-time federal dollars are also ideal for expanding assistance to the hardest hit workers and small businesses in our communities—especially BIPOC entrepreneurs and community non-profits. This will ensure that they don't just survive the pandemic but thrive into the future.
- Last, there are infrastructure needs across Oregon that one-time American Rescue Plan Act dollars can help meet, either by building outright or leveraging matching funds. Capital improvements like these will improve resiliency *and* grow jobs and housing.

This is an opportunity for all of us to invest in our communities in a way that reduces hardship and sets the stage for a stronger and more equitable economic recovery. Beaverton and communities across Oregon are planning for and working on these types of investments, as is the Governor and Legislature. I look forward to working together to maximize the impact of one-time federal dollars coming to Oregon.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lacey Beaty". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Lacey Beaty, Mayor  
City of Beaverton