

May 12, 2021

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

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 Rachel Lyles Smith

City of Oregon City

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 McEnery-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

Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair

Senator Kim Thatcher, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Re: Support for HB 3059A

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of twenty-five cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its support for HB 3059A.

Over the last year, our communities have witnessed and taken part in civil unrest in response to the murder of George Floyd. As mayors, we recognize the importance of one's freedom of speech and the right to assemble peaceful protests. We also acknowledge the challenge that our local law enforcement officers face in to protecting those engaged in peaceful protests while stopping the few individuals who capitalize on the circumstance to instigate violence and vandalism.

The mayors condemn the violence and destruction of property visited upon downtown Portland and elsewhere in the metro region in the last year, and they commend the efforts of law enforcement to maintain public safety and apprehend the individuals responsible for vandalism and mayhem. However, current statute grants a peace officer authority to order a dispersal of "five or more persons, whether armed or not" who are "unlawfully or riotously assembled" in a public space and actually requires our local law enforcement officers to make arrests if their commands to disperse are ignored. This leads to unnecessary arrests and increases tension between the peaceful protestors and law enforcement officers.

The mayors of the MMC accept our obligation to be agents of institutional change, and we appreciate these initial efforts by the Oregon Legislature to achieve meaningful police reform. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Mayors of the MMC