

February 8, 2022

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 Jaimie Fender**
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 Beyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for SB 1506

Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of 25 cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express support for SB 1506, which we see as an opportunity to invest more in our communities.

Longstanding issues with the property tax system were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. MMC cities continue to provide services and increasingly see families and youth turning to the community programs they provide. The economic hardships of COVID-19 have also disproportionately affected the low-income Oregonians and communities of color who were already struggling to make ends meet.

Senate Bill 1506 would allow MMC cities to increase local marijuana taxes, directly paid by the consumer, from the current maximum of 3% to a new cap of 10%. When accounting for taxes, Oregon marijuana prices are some of the lowest in the county and would still be if SB 1506 was passed. SB 1506 would share 20% of the increased city revenues with the county where the store is located, ensuring that marijuana tax revenues continue to help fund services, infrastructure, and other benefits in our communities at large.

The mayors of the MMC urge the committee's support for Senate Bill 1506 and appreciate the efforts made by the Oregon Legislature to invest in our communities. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Mayors of the MMC