

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 Taylor, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for SB 1545

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 1545 with the -2 amendment, which represents an opportunity to invest in our communities and bolster Oregon's workforce.

The economic hardships of COVID-19 have disproportionately affected the low-income Oregonians and communities of color who are already struggling to make ends meet. But even before the pandemic, many individuals and families were unable to afford rent and basic necessities despite being employed. Wages are simply not keeping up with Oregon's cost of living and high housing costs. The apprenticeship programs in technical fields offered by SB 1545 will create more and better employment opportunities for those residents of MMC cities.

In particular, the mayors of the MMC would like to highlight their support for the provisions in the -2 amendment, which goes beyond providing financial assistance to Oregonians in need. Instead, it gives them the wraparound services and support necessary to help them find family-wage jobs and begin to climb out of poverty. We also appreciate the bill's efforts to direct these services to those Oregonians with the greatest need by defining priority population.

In addition to benefitting the individuals who participate in the program, the workforce development provided by SB 1545 will help to address the workforce shortages facing MMC cities and communities across the state. The mayors of the MMC recognize that this bill will provide only a fraction of the needed investment in workforce development, but it is a step in the right direction.

The mayors of the MMC urge the Senate Committee on Labor and Business to support Senate Bill 1545. We appreciate the efforts made by the Oregon Legislature to invest in our communities and develop reliable employment opportunities. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Mayors of the MMC