

January 23, 2023

**Opposition to House Bill 2088**

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, and Vice-Chair Walters,

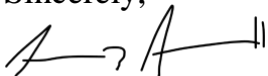
First, I want to thank each of you for your work on our behalf and for your time in helping improve our state. I am writing today in response to House Bill 2088, which “directs a county treasurer to withhold three percent of all property tax moneys for use by county for the administration of property tax laws.” The City of Gresham is appreciative of the work of the Multnomah County Assessor’s Office in finding and raising our operating revenue. However, as it is currently written, House Bill 2088 would create insurmountable challenges to our city’s financial situation. In the fiscal year 2022/2023 alone, the City of Gresham would lose roughly \$985,560 due to the 3% proposed withholding.

In a period where municipalities are being asked to do more things with less money, this proposal would be financially crippling. As the fourth largest city in the state, Gresham serves a diverse and financially distressed population. The ability to provide critical services in an equitable and timely manner for our community members means using every tax dollar we receive wisely and with the maximum benefit.

As a city, we are also considering other financial levies and bond proposals to ensure there is no interruption in service delivery. One proposal the city is currently discussing would see an additional \$390,000 withheld from our property tax funds due to House Bill 2088. The total impact the City of Gresham could see later this year is roughly \$1,375,000. For our city, that number represents the loss of between 8 and 10 police officers or firefighters. I urge this committee to explore other solutions to assessor funding that would avoid such an adverse impact on vital city services.

Like many cities and towns across our state, Gresham has faced daunting challenges during and after Covid-19. House Bill 2088 would be another obstacle and would make our jobs in delivering critical services at a local level financially impossible.

Sincerely,



Travis Stovall  
Mayor  
City of Gresham

