



# WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

January 24, 2023

To: House Committee on Revenue

Re: Support for HB 2088

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Walters and Reschke and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Washington County in support of HB 2088 and want to make clear that we are amenable to amendments on this bill so that many voices are considered, heard, and included.

Washington County is the second largest county in the state of Oregon, with over 600,000 people residing within the County. Since 1990, the county's population has nearly doubled in size. Most recently our population has grown at a rate equivalent to 19 people moving in every day. As a result, we are the most diverse and rapidly growing county in the state.

Washington County has sorely needed sustainable funding to serve our vast and diverse communities. Band-aid fiscal solutions may have temporarily allowed for the continuation of some county services, but these days Washington County finds itself at a critical crossroads of what to fund and how. In fact, in meeting with Washington County legislators this week how to build sustainable solutions has been an ever-present theme.

HB 2088 answers their and our call and meets us where we are at through providing us with the necessary, sustainable funding that we need to continue to provide taxation and assessment services. This bill will not only ensure that our taxation and assessment services can continue but that we are able to do so without cutting other county services.

Namely, this concept fits into several of Washington County's Legislative Priorities which are:

- Secure stabilized and sustainable funding for services that the state requires the county to provide
- Develop policies to enable the county to recruit and retain the talent necessary for our communities to thrive

A fully functioning assessment service will help all local taxing districts by ensuring that property taxes are fully assessed and collected. However, we recognize that are our local partners may be concerned about impacts to their budget and are willing to work in partnership to find a workable solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

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