

March 3, 2023

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 Malynda Wenzl

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Michael Milch

City of Gladstone

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 Lisa Batey

City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan

City of North Plains

Mayor Denyse McGriff

City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams

City of Rivergrove

Mayor Tim Rosener

City of Sherwood

Mayor Heidi Lueb

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 Rory Bialostosky

City of West Linn

Mayor Julie Fitzgerald

City of Wilsonville

Mayor John Miner

City of Wood Village

Senator Woods, Co-Chair
Representative Gomberg, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic
Development
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 5511

Dear Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of twenty-four cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express support for SB 5511, the Housing and Community Services Department budget with an amendment to ensure direct annual funding for cities to address homelessness.

SB 5511 provides a great starting point to address Oregon's unprecedented homelessness crisis. However, one-time investments can result in one-time outcomes and cities need continual direct funding to ensure basic human services are met. Cities are the frontline to the crisis and the MMC supports the Oregon Mayors Association \$125 million package to address the needs of all of the homeless population. When faced with a crisis of this magnitude, it is critical that the State support the work being done day-in-and-out, on the ground in cities. A direct partnership between the state and cities is critical to Oregon's response.

Every corner of this state, every city in this state, has a resident who is either experiencing homelessness or is so unstably housed they are one emergency away from losing their home. The OHCS budget should reflect this painful reality and ensure that cities are provided direct funding to quickly deploy resources, in coordination with county and provider partners, to make meaningful advancements not just in addressing homelessness, but in preventing it as well.

On behalf of the 1.7 million Oregonians we represent, the Mayors of the MMC urge the Committee's support for SB 5511 and Oregon Mayors Association funding proposal. Cities are frontline workers in our state's homelessness crisis. As frontline workers, cities know where resources are lacking and where and how programs can be launched to provide the most efficient and direct impact to the Oregonians who are not being reached under the current approach of competitive grants and indirect funding. Your support for SB 5511 is critical to address this statewide and chronic homelessness funding.

We're your partners in this work.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium