

**County Commissioners**

Kevin Cameron, Chair  
Danielle Bethell  
Colm Willis



**Chief Administrative  
Officer**  
Jan Fritz

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**MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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February 12, 2024

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair  
Representative E. Werner Reschke, Vice-Chair  
Representative Jules Walters, Vice-Chair  
Members of the Committee

**Subject: Marion County Supports HB 4072**

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

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes to express our strong support for House Bill 4072, which proposes the establishment of a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for state properties within Salem.

Salem is the seat of Marion County and the second most populated city in Oregon. As Salem grapples with significant budget shortfalls exacerbated by the tax-exempt status of state-owned properties. As capital of Oregon, Salem shoulders the responsibility of providing essential public safety, fire, and first response services to numerous state facilities and employees within its boundaries. Despite these vital services, the city faces immense financial strain, particularly evident in the aftermath of the pandemic-induced shift to remote work.

The proposed PILT program presents a viable solution to address this imbalance by requiring state properties to contribute financially to the services they receive. The allocation of these funds exclusively towards medical first response, fire, and public safety further ensures that Salem can continue to uphold its commitment to the well-being and security of all residents, including those working on state-owned properties.

We urge you to support HB 4072 and take decisive action to safeguard Salem's ability to provide essential services amidst a challenging fiscal landscape.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cameron                      Danielle Bethell                      Colm Willis  
Chair                                      Commissioner                                      Commissioner