

Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Owens, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eric Schmidt, and I'm currently serving as the Interim City Manager for the City of Gresham. Through this written testimony, I wish to express our strong support for House Bill 4128-3 amendments on behalf of the City of Gresham. This legislation is crucial for our community, promising much-needed advancements in our critical infrastructure that are essential for our continued growth and the well-being of our residents.

HB4128-3 stands as a significant opportunity for Gresham to enhance the quality of life for our community. It does so by ensuring the provision of reliable and safe critical infrastructure, which is the backbone of public health and economic vitality. The allocation of \$3 million towards critical infrastructure in Gresham as facilitated by this bill will enable us to help address some of the most difficult challenges related to new development.

More specifically, this direct allocation will support at least 500 new housing units in Gresham, providing critical housing options for our central city. This initiative directly aligns with our city's goals to expand access to housing and stimulate community development. By fostering a more robust infrastructure, HB4128-3 not only addresses immediate needs but also serves as a catalyst for attracting investment, spurring economic activity, and enhancing educational opportunities within our community.

We are very appreciative of being included among the projects recommended for state support. The City of Gresham stands ready to work alongside the state, leveraging this bill's support to make significant strides in improving our critical infrastructure and, by extension, also improving the lives of those we serve.

In conclusion, the City of Gresham fully supports the passage of HB4128-3. Thank you for your consideration of our support and look forward to the positive impact that this legislation will have on our community and the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Eric Schmidt, PE, SE, CBO
Interim City Manager, City of Gresham