

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

Mayor Lacey Beaty

City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson

City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin

City of Cornelius

Mayor Joshua Drake

City of Durham

Mayor Keith Kudrna

City of Fairview

Mayor Malynnda 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 Beach Pace

City of Hillsboro

Mayor Marc Manelis

City of King City

Mayor Joe Buck

City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Michelle Montross

City of Maywood Park

Mayor Lisa Batey

City of Milwaukie

Mayor Ariel Goodwin

City of North Plains

Mayor Denyse McGriff

City of Oregon City

Mayor Keith Wilson

City of Portland

Mayor Tim Rosener

City of Sherwood

Mayor Heidi Lueb

City of Tigard

Mayor David Ripma

City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik

City of Tualatin

Mayor Rory Bialostosky

City of West Linn

Mayor Shawn O'Neil

City of Wilsonville

Mayor Jairo Rios-Campos

City of Wood Village

March 14th, 2025

Re: Support for HB 2968,

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing today on behalf of the Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium, which represents the mayors of 24 cities in the Portland Metro Area—home to more than 1.7 million Oregonians. We urge your support of HB 2968. We also want to thank former MMC member Representative Gamba for bringing this concept forward.

Cities face a stark funding reality when it comes to necessary housing infrastructure. Materials and labor cost what they cost, yet our property tax bases are structurally constrained by Measures 5 and 50. As such, System Development Charges (SDCs) are important tools for ensuring that vital city services like police and fire aren't cut in order to put pipes in the ground.

In an effort to get more of our friends and neighbors housed, many of our cities willingly defer SDC payments. Doing so puts our local budgets at risk, as there is always the fear that we won't be paid back. Making OHCS a guarantor for these optional city deferrals, as this bill does, provides our cities the confidence to start or continue offering those deferrals

Our cities remain your partners on the ground in helping to address our state's housing production shortfall. Ensuring our local governments have a backstop for getting paid for incurred SDC costs allows us to provide more cost relief upfront, particularly for providers of affordable housing. We strongly support passage of HB 2968 and thank Representative Gamba for bringing his mayoral expertise to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Chair Lacey Beaty, on behalf of the Metropolitan Mayor's Consortium