

# 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 McEnerny-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