

MMC
**Metropolitan
Mayors'
Consortium**

Mayor Lacey Beatty

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 Peter Truax

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Travis Stovall

City of Gresham

Mayor Tom Ellis

City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway

City of Hillsboro

Mayor Ken Gibson

City of King City

Mayor Joe Buck

City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie

City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba

City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan

City of North Plains

Mayor Ted Wheeler

City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams

City of Rivergrove

Mayor Keith Mays

City of Sherwood

Mayor Jason Snider

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 Jules Walters

City of West Linn

Mayor Julie Fitzgerald

City of Wilsonville

Mayor Scott Harden

City of Wood Village

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair
Representative Ron Noble, Vice-Chair
Representative Karin Power, Vice-Chair
House Judiciary Committee

Re: Support for HB 3115

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Noble, Vice-Chair Power, and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium 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 its support for HB 3115.

Housing insecurity is a chronic issue in many MMC cities due to the high cost of housing in the metro region. Homelessness was a mounting problem for MMC cities before COVID-19, and the economic downturn produced by the pandemic has further increased the number of households vulnerable to homelessness. MMC cities are increasingly seeing homelessness that represents a variety of populations, including families and youth. The economic hardships of COVID-19 have also disproportionately affected the low-income Oregonians and communities of color who were already struggling to make ends meet.

The mayors of the MMC are united in their efforts to address the homelessness crisis in our cities and throughout Oregon. Decriminalizing homelessness has long been a top priority for the MMC, and we are concerned about the over-policing of our homeless residents. For these reasons, the MMC supports the steps taken by HB 3115 to align state policy with the Martin v. Boise ruling that government cannot criminalize certain conduct, such as lying, sitting, or sleeping on the streets, that is unavoidable as a result of homelessness.

HB 3115 provides a framework for cities to revisit their policies on survival activities and public space management to ensure that those policies reflect current case law. The MMC mayors agree that "objectively reasonable" is different from city to city, allowing our communities and leaders to craft ordinances that work best for our cities. As mayors, it is our responsibility to ensure our law enforcement officers are provided the appropriate guidance to humanely and compassionately assist our homeless population who has nowhere else to go but the streets. HB 3115 helps with that.

The MMC looks forward to continuing to work together with the Oregon Legislature to address our state's homelessness crisis. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium