

# 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 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 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

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Re: Opposition to SB 974 -A4

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

I write today as current Chair of the Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium in opposition to SB 974 -A4. The MMC is made up of the mayors of 24 cities in the Portland Metro Area—home to more than 1.7 million Oregonians.

As your partners in local government, Metro-area Mayors are committed to doing all we can to solve the housing production crisis leaving too many of our friends and neighbors unhoused. We are also charged by our shared constituents with ensuring the safety and livability of our communities. Unfortunately, SB 974 -A4 piles on to the numerous unfunded mandates placed on city planning departments in recent years.

We appreciate ongoing negotiations on the bill and understand that section 2 of the bill is to be amended out. To be clear, section 2 of the -A4 amendment jeopardizes our cities' ability to provide vital public services by opening a new arena for financial liability. This threat takes the form of attorney fees and engineering costs for potential breaches of the ninety day "shot clock" on engineering review. We strongly believe that cities are and can be held accountable for being strong partners in our housing production goals without financial threat.

We also want to highlight another area of outstanding concern around design review in the base bill and ask that it be amended out. Section 4(5)(a) requires that local governments waive the design review process or requirements for an urban housing application for the development of 20 or more residential lots or parcels. SB 1537 (2024), adopted just last session, already requires clear and objective requirements. Eliminating these standards risks causing harm to neighborhood livability while not accomplishing the laudable goal of speeding up development.

Our cities have faithfully and to the best our ability implemented numerous housing laws passed by the Legislature in recent years, including HB 2001 (2019), HB 3115 (2021), HB 2003 (2023), and SB 1537 (2024) with little in the way of state funding assistance. We respectfully request that you reconsider the punitive approach outlined in SB 974 -A4 and prioritize collaborative housing production solutions for the benefit of our shared constituents.

Sincerely,

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