

Representative Julie Fahey, Chair  
House Committee on Housing  
Oregon State Legislature

**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 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 Jaimie Fender**  
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 Rachel Lyles Smith**  
City of Oregon City

**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

Re: Opposition to HB 4118

Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of 25 cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The mayors of the MMC write to express their opposition to HB 4118, which would require local governments, if petitioned, to expand their urban growth boundaries to include land designated as urban reserve that supports workforce housing and commercial development supportive of workforce housing.

Housing affordability was already a monumental challenge that has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and as mayors, we are constantly seeking ways to improve housing stability in our communities. However, the MMC has serious concerns about the way in which HB 4118 would undermine our state's land use planning process by requiring cities to make land use decisions without giving our residents the opportunity to have any input into the planning of their communities. The bill would functionally transfer primary decision-making authority from the elected public bodies of our region to any private landowner of any plot urban reserves in the metro area. The mayors of the MMC believe strongly that local governments and their residents should have a say in the land use decisions that impact our communities.

The mayors are also concerned that HB 4118 could exacerbate some of the existing systemic inequities that we are working to combat in our cities. By allowing land on the outward edges of our communities to be developed for affordable housing without consideration of the availability of transit routes, social services, and critical retail like grocery stores, the bill runs the risk of creating new car-dependent suburbs and food deserts for lower-income residents in search of affordable housing. While the creation of new affordable housing stock is important, the MMC would prefer to see development that integrates affordable housing into our communities in ways that allow residents to better avail themselves of critical services while also minimizing increased congestion.

While the mayors of the MMC appreciate the value of convening a broad stakeholder group focused on ensuring that our state has enough land available for affordable housing and industrial development, we are not sure that the -1 amendment to HB 4118 is the right approach. The MMC would suggest that this conversation be handled more regionally to better address the unique needs and considerations in the urban, coastal, and eastern parts of the state. Additionally, while affordable housing and

industrial land issues are interrelated, trying to address both issues together in a single interim task force may be ambitious to the point of impeding meaningful progress on either issue.

The MMC urges the Committee to not move forward with HB 4118. We appreciate the efforts made by the Oregon Legislature to address our state's affordable housing crisis, but we are concerned that HB 4118 goes too far in undermining Oregon's land use system and its public process.

Sincerely,

The Mayors of the MMC