

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 Peter Truax

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Tammy Stempel

City of Gladstone

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

February 11, 2021

Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
Representative Wlnsvey Campos, Vice-Chair
Representative Lily Morgan, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Housing

Re: Support for HB 2842

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan 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 support of HB 2842, which establishes a Healthy Homes Program that would provide low-income residents and landlords in our communities with financial assistance to make repairs and improvements to their homes.

As mayors, we are constantly seeking ways to help ensure that everyone, regardless of income, is afforded the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy and affordable home. Housing affordability was already a monumental challenge that has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. More of our residents than ever are struggling to make ends meet, and people are spending more on energy now that they are spending more time at home. Energy costs are disproportionately burdensome for our low-income residents, many of whom live in homes with poor insulation and low-efficiency heating. HB 2842 will allow more Oregonians to reduce their energy costs and help prevent more people from becoming homeless.

The MMC supports the Healthy Homes Program not only for its housing affordability benefits, but also for its health benefits. In addition to funding energy efficiency improvements, HB 2842 will provide funding to address hazards like mold, radon, and lead-based paint. We also appreciate that the bill supports the modernization of public health by tracking the intersection of health and housing data so that we can begin to address the social determinants of health that drive up health care costs.

The MMC would also like to acknowledge the vital role of energy efficiency in meeting Oregon's decarbonization and clean energy goals. Upgrades such as high-efficiency appliances, water heaters and ductless heat pumps are usually only options for the homeowners who can afford them, therefore limiting Oregon's potential energy savings to just a fraction of our population. By providing funding to landlord for energy efficiency upgrades, HB 2842 can significantly increase our state's capacity to reduce energy consumption while simultaneously lowering energy costs for tenants.

The mayors of the MMC urge the committee's support for HB 2842 and appreciate the efforts made by the Oregon Legislature to improve

quality of life for those who need it most. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium