

**MMC**  
**Metropolitan  
Mayors'  
Consortium**

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**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

Senator Jama, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing and Development  
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support for SB 1557

Chair Jama 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 MMC writes to express support for SB 1557 and sees this as an important step in protecting Oregonians from homelessness.

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 and housing inflation 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 shortage of affordable housing in the Portland region and across our state is compounded by the fact that numerous affordable housing contracts are on the verge of expiring. When an affordable housing contract ends and the property owner chooses to move those units to market rate, it can be devastating to low-income tenants who cannot afford the increased rent. Waiting lists for affordable housing units are often years long, so pricing these residents out of the affordable housing they currently have risks leaving families homeless with few options.

Senate Bill 1557 would create a pilot program for rental assistance subsidies to landlords of tenants in low-income households to keep them housed after the property owners withdraw from publicly supported housing. It is more effective and more humane to keep people housed before they are forced to live on the street, and Senate Bill 1557 provides another potential tool to do just that.

The mayors of the MMC urge the committee's support for Senate Bill 1557 and appreciate the efforts made by the Oregon Legislature keeping Oregonians housed. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Mayors of the MMC