

April 28, 2021

**MMC**

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**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 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 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 McEnery-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 Nancy Nathanson, Chair  
Representative E. Werner Reschke, Vice-Chair  
Representative Khanh Pham, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Revenue

Re: Support for HB 2343A

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Pham 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 supports HB 2343A which would provide multiple MMC cities that realize the economic development benefits of the Enterprise Zones Program, the temporary authority to suspend Enterprise Zone employment requirements in situations where employers can demonstrate that workforce curtailments are a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis and related economic impacts.

The Enterprise Zone program is a critical economic development tool for multiple MMC cities, attracting and expanding traded sector companies and jobs. Eligibility for the property tax abatement includes certain thresholds for hiring and retaining workers.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting Executive Orders and public health restrictions have caused unprecedented challenges for a number of employers located in MMC cities that receive these Enterprise Zone abatements, including supply chain disruption, decreases in sales, new facility protocols and reduction in output. Due to these unpredictable challenges, employers in our cities have been forced to lay off employees, in some cases dropping companies below the employment thresholds required for them to maintain the tax abatements provided by the Enterprise Zone program.

The mayors of the MMC ask the House Revenue Committee to support HB 2343A to provide this much needed temporary authority to local governments to suspend the Enterprise Zone employment requirements in situations where employers can demonstrate that workforce curtailments are a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic impacts. Without this temporary suspension, MMC city businesses falling below the threshold will be subject to penalties and back taxes that will further jeopardize their ability to retain their workforces.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors Consortium