

February 18, 2021

# 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 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 Ken Helm, Chair  
 Representative Jeff Reardon, Vice-Chair  
 Representative Mark Owens, Vice-Chair  
 House Committee on Water

Re: Support for HB 3089

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Reardon, Vice-Chair Owens and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of twenty-five cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its support for HB 3089, which would establish a drinking water and sewer rate assistance program.

Utility cost burden was already a growing issue in our communities, and it has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Water and sewer are essential services, and they place a significant cost burden on many of our low-income residents who have also been disproportionately impacted by COVID. While there are state- and federal-funded low-income assistance and weatherization programs for home heating, there are no state or federal programs for water or sewer assistance. The mayors of the MMC are deeply concerned about the ability of our residents to pay their water and sewer bills, and about the resulting impacts on housing stability in our cities.

In response to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, many MMC cities have offered assistance to ratepayers and stopped disconnections due to nonpayment. However, cities are experiencing significant budget challenges of their own, and this is not a sustainable path forward for local governments, utilities, or ratepayers. The mayors of the MMC support HB 3089 because it will provide the funding and framework needed to get financial assistance to those in need.

The mayors of the MMC urge the committee's support for HB 3089 and appreciate the efforts made the 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