

February 25, 2021

Senate Committee On Housing and Development  
Senator Jama, Chair  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Senate Bill 622**

Chair Jama and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

Gresham is a diverse community situated between Mount Hood, the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and the city of Portland. The northernmost part of Gresham runs along the Columbia River and Columbia Slough. Nestled between the Portland International Airport complex and Fairview and Blue Lakes, north Gresham is home to multiple regional employers ranging from food and beverage distributors to logistics companies to healthcare and manufacturing. This area is a part of the broader Columbia Corridor, a critical commercial and industrial area and transportation hub that contributes over \$16 billion to Oregon’s economy each year.

A 27-mile levee system reduces the risk of flooding in north Gresham and across the Columbia Corridor. Like so many other levees across the state, our local levee system is aging and in need of major repairs and upgrades to meet regional needs, comply with new federal safety standards put in place after Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy, and prepare for changing conditions due to climate change.

The City of Gresham appreciates what the State Legislature has done in recent years to support communities with aging flood safety infrastructure. We urge you to support Senate Bill 622 to allocate \$10 million in lottery bond proceeds to the Levee Grant Program within Business Oregon. Communities across Oregon, including Gresham, are counting on the State’s partnership to help advance critical flood safety projects.

Sincerely,

Steve Fancher  
Environmental Services Director  
City of Gresham