

February 1, 2022

House Committee on Veterans & Emergency Preparedness  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Grayber and Members of the House Committee on Veterans & Emergency Management,

I am writing to express the City of Gresham’s support for HB 4067.

Gresham is a diverse community situated between Mount Hood, the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area and the city of Portland. 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. In 2019, the Oregon State Legislature passed SB 431, creating the Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District (UFSWQD), a new special district to manage the levees, pump stations, and conveyances that reduce the risk of flooding along the Columbia River in northern Multnomah County. The passage of SB 431 greatly assisted to create a more modern, environmentally friendly, and sustainable governance structure to protect this critical asset.

The City of Gresham appreciates what the State Legislature has done in recent years to support communities with aging flood safety infrastructure. We believe that HB 4067 will provide needed clarification to speed up a revenue structure for the UFGWQD and prepare the district to accelerate the transition to a single entity capable of meeting our critical flood safety needs. This legislation will clarify authority, reinforce financial tools and levels of funding, as well as speed up the transition between the two boards and clarify operational needs to address any obstructions on the levees.

We urge your support for HB 4067.

Sincerely,

Steve Fancher  
Assistant City Manager, Environmental Services Director  
City of Gresham