



MEDFORD

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

TO: House Revenue Committee
FROM: City of Medford
DATE: January 24, 2023
RE: Opposition to HB 2088

The City of Medford strongly opposes House Bill 2088, which would redirect property taxes that fund City of Medford public safety personnel to the County for administration of the property tax laws of this state.

Prior to 2022, property tax revenues for the City of Medford were sufficient to pay for all public safety personnel. However, with rapidly increasing expenses and only 3 percent annual increases in property tax revenues, the City has had to resort to raising resident utility fees to ensure an adequate level of service in the City's police and fire departments is maintained. Utility fees are a regressive fee and disproportionately affects low-income households.

If House Bill 2088 passes, the City would lose \$1.35 million per year in property tax revenues, which equates to ten police officers and firefighters. The City would be forced to reduce public safety staffing in a growing community or raise resident utility fees that would further impact a struggling demographic in the community.

We urge you to vote no on House Bill 2088.

Sincerely,

Randy Sparacino
City of Medford, Mayor

Brian Sjothun
City of Medford, City Manager

Ryan Martin
City of Medford, CFO/Deputy City Manager