



January 24, 2023

House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St. NE, Room 160
Salem, OR 97301

RE: City of Beaverton Opposes HB 2088

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Beaverton opposes HB 2088, which would allow county treasurers to hold back three percent of all property tax revenue to fund counties' administration of state property tax laws. We understand the importance of adequately funding the assessment and collection of property taxes; however, shifting huge amounts of revenue away from cities is not the appropriate solution to their funding issues.

Local governments only have a few tools in their toolbox when it comes to funding essential services. While revenues have taken a hit from the COVID-19 pandemic, cities like Beaverton rely more and more on finite revenue streams like property tax to fund vital front-line services, including public safety, sanitation, water, housing planning and permitting, all in a responsive and efficient manner.

If passed as written, HB 2088 would transfer approximately \$1.4 million annually from the City of Beaverton to the Washington County Department of Assessment & Taxation. In a time of tightening budgets, this reduction could translate to a loss of roughly nine Beaverton police officer positions or 11 planning and permitting positions. Non-personnel losses could mean the elimination of all library material, the library lease at our Murray Scholls Library Branch, all library custodial staff positions, and two-thirds of all city-sponsored events.

Cities are under increasing financial pressure to maintain the services our residents rely upon. HB 2088 would redirect a critical revenue stream from cities to counties, and these additional dollars appear to be far in excess of what is adequate to administer state property tax laws. We ask for the state to partner with us to recognize the budget constraints of cities, schools, and special districts and identify other mechanisms to equitably fund Oregon's property tax collection system.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our opposition to HB 2088. Please feel welcome to contact me for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Haruyama". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenny Haruyama, City Manager