



Eugene Mayor's Office  
Lucy Vinis

January 25, 2023

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair  
House Committee on Revenue  
900 Court Se. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: City of Eugene Opposes HB2088- 3% Payment to County Assessors**

Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke and Walters, I am Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis and I want to thank you for the opportunity to voice the City of Eugene's strong opposition to House Bill 2088, which would provide County Treasurer's a 3% payment 'off the top' allocation of local property taxes to fund assessor operations.

As you all know, property tax revenues are vital for local governments, including cities, counties, school districts and special districts. Property taxes fund infrastructure, public services, and approximately one-third of the K-12 education budget. For most taxing districts, property taxes are their largest and, in some cases, their sole revenue source.

Which brings me to why I traveled to Salem today to provide this testimony in person. **If passed as written, HB 2088 would reduce the City of Eugene's General Fund property tax revenue by nearly \$4 million annually and also reduce the City's other property tax levies, such as our local option taxes, that provide much needed funding for our libraries and parks.**

The City's General Fund is currently facing a \$15-20 million annual budget gap in the coming year and HB2088 would push that amount towards \$24 million. This is a significant gap for Eugene. We are currently seeking more support from the state and our partners to help fund critical services, not less. This moves us in the wrong direction and will have far reaching impacts to vital community services.

While we can all acknowledge the importance of fully funding the property tax assessment function, HB 2088 is not equitable nor realistic. As you all know, the legacy impacts of Measure 5 and 50 have created a tapestry of taxing districts across the state, all of which are scrambling to preserve to the highest level the property tax revenue to pay for critical services. All in a time when the majority of local governments, school districts, and special districts are facing budget gaps in the coming year, HB 2088 is irresponsible and will do much more harm to the communities we all serve. I ask for you to oppose this bill and any level of 'off the top' payment to counties.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lucy Vinis