



February 1, 2023

Chair Nancy Nathanson
Vice-Chairs E. Werner Reschke and Jules Walters
Members of the House Committee on Revenue

Re: HB 2548

VIA: OLIS

Members of the House Committee on Revenue

As you know, Washington County is the second largest county in the state of Oregon, with over 600,000 people residing within the County. Since 1990, the county's population has nearly doubled in size, most recently our population has grown at a rate equivalent to 19 people moving in every day. This growth has made us one of the most rapidly growing and most diverse county in the state.

We are also part of the tri-county region that makes up the jurisdiction of Metro, so we work as part of this region to find solutions to shared problems. As you are aware, housing and homelessness are two of the biggest issues facing our region and are significant concerns to our voters. As a result, the voters of this region have adopted specific funding measures to work for solutions.

Every level of government is looking for sufficient resources to accomplish profound changes to the very challenging homelessness crisis. To build the needed shelter and wrap the supportive services around those in shelters, we have stretch our budgets and looked for new revenue streams. In the Metro region, our voters provided us with additional revenues and timelines in which to raise and use them. We are concerned that HB 2548 could profoundly impact the ability to continue our long-term success if the revenue tool is taken off the table or even more concerning applied retroactively.

We respectfully ask that you oppose HB 2548.

Sincerely,

Erin Doyle
Senior Government Relations Manager
Erin_Doyle@washingtoncountyor.gov