



MEDFORD
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

February 13, 2023

Representative Dacia Grayber, Chair
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Re: Letter of support for HB 2806

Dear Chair Grayber and the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans:

The City of Medford supports HB 2806. Sometimes, particularly in response to aggressive protests or dangerous situations, a public body will develop new response plans to these situations, or need to train and discuss elected officials on existing response plans. Creating an executive session provision allows City staff to meet with elected officials outside of the view of members of the public. Staff can then discuss and refine emergency response procedures with elected officials without making that discussion available to bad actors in the general public who might cause the need for evacuation or security response.

In addition, municipalities need to execute contracts regarding cybersecurity insurance policies and cybersecurity software tools. Publicly discussing the details of these two provisions may inadvertently telegraph to the general public (and thus to potential bad actors within the general public) what security measures a municipality does and does not have. Discussing the technical aspects of the security provisions in executive session, and executing the contract in a regular meeting with just a discussion of the contractor and the amount of the contract, would protect against these inadvertent disclosures.

For these reasons, the City of Medford supports HB 2806 and appreciates the Committee's work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

/s/ Eric B. Mitton

Eric B. Mitton
City Attorney