

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

Mayor Lacey Beaty
City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson
City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin
City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado
City of Durham

Mayor Brian Cooper
City of Fairview

Mayor Malynnda Wenzl
City of Forest Grove

Mayor Michael Milch
City of Gladstone

Mayor Travis Stovall
City of Gresham

Mayor Tom Ellis
City of Happy Valley

Mayor Steve Callaway
City of Hillsboro

Mayor Jaimie Fender
City of King City

Mayor Joe Buck
City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Lisa Batey
City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan
City of North Plains

Mayor Denyse McGriff
City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler
City of Portland

Mayor Walt Williams
City of Rivergrove

Mayor Tim Rosener
City of Sherwood

Mayor Heidi Lueb
City of Tigard

Mayor Randy Lauer
City of Troutdale

Mayor Frank Bubenik
City of Tualatin

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle
City of Vancouver (ex officio)

Mayor Rory Bialostosky
City of West Linn

Mayor Julie Fitzgerald
City of Wilsonville

Mayor John Miner
City of Wood Village

March 3, 2023

Chair Meek
Vice-Chair Boquist
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to SB 858

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Boquist, and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium represents the mayors of twenty five cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its opposition to SB 858, which would authorize the creation of children's special districts and provides districts the authority to assess, levy and collect taxes to pay the cost of children's services within the boundaries of the district.

The mayors of the MMC acknowledge the intent of SB 858, which is to enhance services for children. A valuable and worthy goal, especially after years of school closures that forced children to shift to comprehensive distance learning. However, creating a new special property-taxing district to deliver those services could jeopardize the effectiveness of existing property-tax-based service providers to deliver other critical services like police and fire emergency services.

If SB 858 were to pass, it would also raise concerns of losing essential property tax revenue via compression. One of the largest sources of revenue for many MMC cities, property tax revenue helps pay for existing services to our communities, some of which already aimed at services for children. This is the stark reality of our current property tax system in Oregon, where Measure 5 reduces taxes that would otherwise be levied.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium