



THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

April 27, 2023

Joint Committee On Tax Expenditures
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2079

Co-chair Meek, co-chair Nathanson, and Members of the Joint Committee On Tax Expenditures,

The City of Portland supports HB 2079, which directs the Legislative Revenue Office to study alternative approaches to incentivizing the reuse, rehabilitation, and preservation of designated historic resources. Historic resources span a diversity of building types ranging from houses to churches, warehouses to theaters, and apartments to storefronts. Although the Special Assessment of Historic Property Program (addressed separately in SB 149) has encouraged the preservation of historic resources across Oregon since 1975, the existing property tax incentive program is often inadequate to motivate owners to invest in accessibility, energy, and seismic retrofits. The study envisioned by HB 2079 will provide a deeper understanding of the potential range of financial incentives that would meaningfully encourage these upgrades.

Since 2021, the City of Portland has participated in the Historic Property Workgroup alongside a diverse group of historic preservation experts from around the state. The need to study alternative historic preservation incentives was a core recommendation of workgroup members and is a necessary foundation for future legislative decision-making on the topic of historic preservation.

Thank you for considering this bill. City of Portland Historic Resources Program staff stand ready to assist the Legislative Revenue Officer in researching and analyzing historic preservation incentive programs.



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Sincerely,



Donald Oliveira

Director, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

