



MEDFORD
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

TO: Senate Labor and Business Committee

FROM: Brian Sjothun, City Manager

DATE: February 12, 2024

RE: SB 1568

POSITION: Oppose

Located in Jackson County, the City of Medford has a population of 90,887 and serves as the County seat. Medford is the demographic and economic hub of the southern Oregon region. With the continued growth in healthcare, retail and manufacturing along with retirees discovering this great region, the City anticipates a continued growth rate of 1.8% per year. Medford is currently the 4th largest metro area in Oregon and is known throughout the country and the world for its pear orchards, and is home to Harry & David, one of the world's largest shippers of fruit and food gifts.

SB 1568 makes implementation and achievement of the City Council's biennial goals for 2023-2025 and our Community Medford 2040 Plan increasingly difficult. As the state looks to increase housing, industrial land development and the infrastructure necessary to support that growth, making projects more expensive should be something the legislature immediately rejects.

We respectfully ask that the committee give strong consideration to the impacts of expanding prevailing wage programs. SB 1568 will further tax our limited resources by increasing our costs and decreasing our ability to deliver vital programs to Medford citizens.

We urge you to oppose SB 1568.