

**County Commissioners**

Danielle Bethell, Chair  
Colm Willis  
Kevin Cameron



**Chief Administrative  
Officer**  
Jan Fritz

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**MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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May 6, 2025

Chair Representative Thuy Tran

Vice-Chair Representative Dacia Grayber

Vice-Chair Representative Rick Lewis

Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

**RE: Support for House Bill 2531 – Salem Capital District Public Safety Funding**

Dear Chair Tran, Vice-Chair Grayber, Vice-Chair Lewis, and Members of the Committee:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes in strong support of House Bill 2531, which proposes the creation of a dedicated funding mechanism to support the City of Salem in delivering critical public safety services within the Salem Capital District.

Salem, Oregon's capital and the seat of Marion County, bears a unique responsibility as host to a large concentration of state-owned facilities and employees. While the presence of these tax-exempt properties is central to the operation of state government, it also places a significant and ongoing burden on Salem's ability to fund essential services, particularly fire response, emergency medical care, and law enforcement.

This strain has only increased in recent years, as the long-term impacts of state workforce restructuring, including a shift toward hybrid and remote work, have reduced economic activity and revenue streams for the city, even as demand for first response and public safety services remains high.

House Bill 2531 offers a practical and timely solution by appropriating \$14 million in General Fund dollars, distributed in two annual installments, to support these critical services in the Salem Capital District. This investment will help ensure the safety of state employees, residents, and visitors alike, while enabling the City of Salem to maintain a sustainable public safety infrastructure.

We urge your support for HB 2531 and encourage its swift passage to help meet the unique demands placed upon Oregon's capital city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bethell  
Chair

Colm Willis  
Commissioner

Kevin Cameron  
Commissioner