



CITY OF  
**West Linn**

House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Se. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

January 31, 2025

**RE: Support for M5 and M50 Impacts Task Forces**

Dear Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Revenue Committee,

On behalf of the Mayor and City Council of West Linn, I am writing to **support House Bills 2321, 2333, 2334, and 2335** which would create task forces to study the impacts of Measure 5 and Measure 50 on disadvantaged communities, local governments, public education, and alternative revenue sources. The City of West Linn strongly supports that the state study impacts of Measure 5 and Measure 50 as it greatly impacts us along with cities all across Oregon. Property tax reform has been a longstanding priority for cities since the passage of M5 and M50. Property taxes are the largest source of revenue for cities, and West Linn is no exception. Here property taxes play a vital role in funding our essential services, including public safety, parks and recreation, community planning, financial oversight, and more.

Measure 5 and 50 are both now more than 20 years old. Measure 5 limits the amount of revenue cities and other government entities can raise for critical services. Measure 50 has not allowed cities to grow with their needs, the market or inflation since property tax values can only grow 3% every year. West Linn's property tax rate was frozen extremely low in the 1990s, at one of the lowest rates in the region. That means that for decades our community not been able to choose what level of basic services we are able to provide and our City has not been able to fully respond to community needs. Recent cost increases in almost every part of our operations have only exacerbated this problem.

The City of West Linn strongly supports the Legislature diving into the impacts of M5 and M50 and we stand ready to partner with you to make meaningful property tax reform.

Thank you for your time on this critical issue. Sincerely,



John Williams  
City Manager