



Office of the City Administrator

Michael Jordan, City Administrator

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February 18, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2693 – Recapitalizing the Levee Grant Fund

Chair Tran, Vice Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports HB 2693, which provides important grants for levee and flood safety projects around the state by recapitalizing the Levee Grant Fund. This fund has played an important role in the metro region by helping to draw down federal funding to support improvements to the 27-miles of levees along the Columbia River in northern Multnomah County – important public infrastructure that protects nearly 60,000 jobs, thousands of homes, and critical public infrastructure like the Portland International Airport and the backup drinking water supply for nearly a million people.

There will be lots of focus this session on the state's aging transportation infrastructure and the importance of investing in the public infrastructure needed to accelerate more housing development. Like our other public infrastructure, the flood safety systems in Oregon are aging. The Levee Grant Fund provides important funding for planning and construction of levee improvement projects, which is an urgent need in the Portland metro area and other leveed areas of the state. For these reasons and more, the City of Portland respectfully requests your ongoing support of the Levee Grant Fund. Please vote in support of HB 2726.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
City Administrator, City of Portland