



Office of the City Administrator

Michael Jordan, City Administrator

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

Re: House Bill 2726 - Columbia Corridor flood safety projects

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

Many people do not realize that 27-miles of levees and other associated flood safety infrastructure run along the Columbia River in northern Multnomah County, playing a critical role in Oregon's economy and protecting the lives and livelihoods of tens of thousands of Oregonians. For this reason, the City of Portland respectfully urges your support of HB 2726.

HB 2726 helps make critical investments in the Columbia Corridor flood safety infrastructure which delivers an important return on investment for the State. The nearly 60,000 employees who work behind the flood safety system live throughout the region, spending their wages throughout the state. The income tax of those 60,000 employees supports statewide investments. Additionally, nearly 8,000 residents, hundreds of people in custody, and hundreds of overnight guests staying in hotels also rely on the levee for flood safety. Protecting the people who live and work behind the levees is a priority for the City of Portland. We would be remiss not to mention the important public infrastructure located behind the levees including the South Columbia Well Field, which delivers back up drinking water for nearly 750,000 people at different points during the year.

The City of Portland has been a steadfast supporter of the regional effort to improve the flood safety infrastructure along the Columbia Corridor. This includes significant financial and technical support over the past ten years as vulnerabilities were identified through careful planning investigations and designs were developed. With this critical capital from the State, the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District will be able to deliver the flood safety needed. We urge support of HB 2726.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
City Administrator, City of Portland