



February 10, 2026

House Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE,
Salem Oregon 97301

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Pham and Elmer, and Members of the Committee:

The Milwaukie City Council expresses its appreciation to Rep. Nathan Sosa for convening local governments and other affected parties over recent months to address problems emanating from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) interpretation of legislative changes made in recent years.

We express our support for passage of all three bills that came out of that process.

Two of those bills -- HB 4159 and HB 4161 -- are non-controversial provisions needed to ensure a local government voice on the OGEC as well as to resolve unintended problems which impede cities from serving food to elected officials and volunteers while engaged in city business, which often occurs in the evenings.

The third bill, HB 4177, will clarify the definition of "deliberation" in Oregon public meetings law. It is an important step, but a deeper dive into public meetings law is warranted ahead of the 2027 session to make Oregon law better serve the goals of transparency and ensuring that residents have an opportunity to comment on local government actions that impact them.

Please pass HB 4159, HB 4161, and HB 4177 out of committee with a "do pass" recommendation, and establish a working group to continue working on enhancements to Oregon public meetings law to be brought back next session.

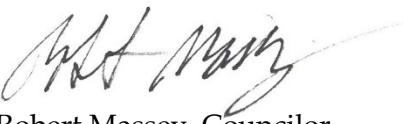
Sincerely,


Lisa M. Mayor


Will Anderson, Council President


Adam Khosroabadi, Councilor


Rebecca Stavenjord, Councilor


Robert Massey, Councilor