

July 24, 2020

President Donald John Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. President and Acting Secretary Wolf:

For 54 days, Oregonians have taken to the streets of cities across this state calling for justice. First and foremost, they call for justice for Black people across this nation, and in this region. They call for reform of the systems that support racism, and abolition of the systems that cannot be reformed.

Three weeks ago, after repeated efforts by demonstrators to graffiti a federal building downtown, the acting Secretary of Homeland Security sent federal police officers to Portland.

We condemn the idea that this will result in more safety for the public. We condemn the actions undertaken by the officers – shooting unarmed protestors in the face, breaking the bones of protesting veterans, tear gassing parents. We call on you both to put an end to this at once.

We also want to declare to the rest of the country that Portland is not a “city under siege.” There are nightly protests in our downtown core – something with which we are quite familiar. These protests are a foundational part of our democracy and are protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Federal interference only inflames more animosity from those who have peaceably assembled.

This is a dangerous situation and it must end, which is why we are coming together at our regional convening space – Metro – to speak with one voice.

We are Republicans and Democrats. We represent small cities, large counties and one of the nation’s largest metropolitan areas. We are writing, from across the political spectrum, to demand justice – and to be clear that justice cannot, must not, include secret police, nor crowd dispersal by federal law enforcement officers that extends beyond the boundaries of federal properties.

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We are united in condemning these as violations of the civic responsibility that comes with being public servants. We demand that they end immediately.

Sincerely,

Metro

Lynn Peterson, Metro Council President

Sam Chase, Craig Dirksen, Juan Carlos González, Christine Lewis, Shirley Craddick, Bob Stacey, Metro Councilors

Multnomah County

Deborah Kafoury, County Chair

Susheela Jayapal, Lori Stegmann, Jessica Vega Pederson, County Commissioners

Washington County

Dick Schouten, County Commissioner

City of Portland

Ted Wheeler, Mayor

Chloe Eudaly, Amanda Fritz, Jo Ann Hardesty, City Commissioners

Carmen Rubio, City Commissioner-elect

City of Vancouver

Anne McEnerny-Ogle, Mayor

Sarah J. Fox, Laurie Lebowski, Erik Paulsen, Ty Stober, City Councilmembers

City of Gresham

Karylenn Echols, Mayor

David Widmark, City Councilor

City of Hillsboro

Steve Callaway, Mayor

Olivia Alcaire, Kyle Allen, City Councilors

City of Beaverton

Denny Doyle, Mayor

Lacey Beaty, Marc San Soucie, City Councilors

City of Tigard

Jason Snider, Mayor

City of Lake Oswego

Theresa M. Kohlhoff, Daniel Nguyen, City Councilors

City of Tualatin

Frank Bubenik, Mayor

Bridget Brooks, Paul Morrison, City Councilors

City of West Linn

Russ Axelrod, Mayor

Teri Cummings, Jules Walters, City Councilors

City of Forest Grove

Pete Truax, Mayor

Mariana Valenzuela, Malynda Wenzl, City Councilors

City of Wilsonville

Tim Knapp, Mayor

Kristen Akervall, City Council President

City of Milwaukie

Mark Gamba, Mayor

Kathy Hyzy, City Councilor

City of Sherwood

Sean Garland, City Councilor

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City of Fairview

Darren Riordan, City Councilor

City of Wood Village

T. Scott Harden, Mayor

City of Durham

Gery Schirado, Mayor

City of Rivergrove

Walter Williams, Mayor

Tigard-Tualatin School District

Ben Bowman, Board Member

West Linn-Wilsonville School District

Ginger Fitch, Board Member

Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District

Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg, Board Chair