

METRO COUNCIL'S FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 119th CONGRESS

The Metro Council's federal legislative agenda is comprised of two documents. The first document is a list of Metro's overarching federal legislative values and principles. The legislative values are broad, overarching positions that guide Metro's engagement on any federal issue, regardless of the topic area. The legislative principles are advocacy positions for specific topic. The second document comprising the federal legislative agenda is a narrow set of strategic legislative priorities (below) with the most opportunity to advance at the time of Council's adoption. The federal affairs program will focus advocacy efforts on the legislative priorities during the two-year Congress. Metro Council's federal legislative priorities are listed below without any particular order.

- **Reform the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)** to increase Oregon's state-wide allocations of LIHTC and private activity bonds (PABs) and reduce PAB financing requirements to access LIHTC so that more affordable housing can be built.
- **Secure regional priorities in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization package**, in partnership with the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT). While the details associated with specific priorities are still being defined, there is alignment to advocate to defend Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding levels, reform the Highway Trust Fund revenue streams, and strengthen the FTA Capital Investment Grant program.
- **Maintain federal funding support for the Oregon Zoo's California condor recovery program**, either via Congressionally Directed Spending, programmatic appropriations, and/or competitive grant funding through the Recovery Challenge Grant.
- **Preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds** in any large-scale tax package. This tax exemption is vital for state and local governments to finance capital improvements and ensure that taxpayers from having to carry the financial burden of paying taxes on interest paid on these qualified bonds.
- **Remediate environmental contaminants at Willamette Cove**, and the broader Portland Harbor Superfund Site, and provide safe public access to the Willamette River in partnership with Tribes.