

City of Portland | City Council Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: 04/25/2023

Re: LD 1634

Testimony in Support of LD 1634 “An Act to Grant Municipalities the Authority to Set Certain Lower Motor Vehicle Speed Limits Without a Department of Transportation Speed Study”

Senator Chipman, Representative Lynne Williams, and distinguished members of the Committee on Transportation:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland’s Legislative/Nominating Committee in Support of LD 1634, An Act to Grant Municipalities the Authority to Set Certain Lower Motor Vehicle Speed Limits Without a Department of Transportation Speed Study. This bill would empower municipalities to more effectively and quickly reduce speed limits in response to observed and measured public safety issues.

We also request that the Committee consider a minor amendment to the legislation to reduce the administrative burden at the local level. While we wholeheartedly support requiring public input and a review of safety deficiencies prior to implementing any changes to speed limits, requiring that a municipality provide five years of data to the Legislature before and after the change is excessive.

As an alternative, we recommend requiring a one-year review and a three-year review be conducted by the implementing municipality after implementation, and that these reviews include motor vehicle speeds, pedestrian counts, and bicycle counts.

We believe that LD 1634 would give municipalities an important tool to address problems that they and their residents are most familiar with. The recommended amendment will minimize the administrative burden of implementing those solutions.

Thank you for your consideration.