

A message from elected leaders in the Portland metropolitan area

Aug. 16, 2017

White supremacists gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia on Saturday carrying torches and chanting vile messages of hate toward anyone unlike them. They marched through Virginia. They have marched through many parts of America, including Portland, since November. Two men in Portland lost their lives on a MAX train standing up to a white supremacist bullying two girls and now in Virginia three more lives have been lost. Wherever these extremists go, they stoke fear, ignite violence and try to further divide us. But the force of our love and care for our neighbors will triumph.

We have faced such hatred before, in world wars and in the struggle for civil rights. We stand here again, on the cusp of history, facing a choice.

Why hate when you can love? Why divide when you can connect? Why break when you can strengthen?

As leaders in the Portland metropolitan area, we embrace equity, justice and compassion. As people who call this country home, we feel responsible to live those values and condemn the racist extremists whose goal is to divide and oppress. We send our condolences to the people of Virginia and the families of those killed and injured as a result of Saturday's violence. We call upon all Oregonians to join us in condemning hateful extremism. We stand with communities of color, the LGBTQ community and religious groups who are in particular affected, and targeted, by this hate.

Working together, we can and will, overcome this blight. We can, and will, build communities that shun hate, offer equitable opportunity and see our differences as cause for celebration, not division. Each of us can take a stand against racism: by supporting community organizations, speaking up when we hear words of discrimination or oppression, and reaching out to support our neighbors who are most affected. We look forward to more dialogue and partnership with our diverse communities as we build a path toward equity and justice together.

For every torch that burns with hate, we must shine a light of love and equality that is a thousand times brighter.

Multnomah County



Chair Deborah Kafoury

City of Portland



Mayor Ted Wheeler

Metro



Council President Tom Hughes



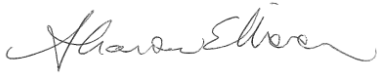
Vice Chair Commissioner
Jessica Vega Pederson



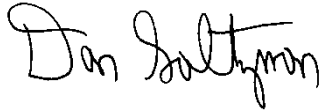
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Fritz



Councilor Shirley Craddick



Commissioner Sharon Meieran



Commissioner Dan
Saltzman



Councilor Carlotta Collette



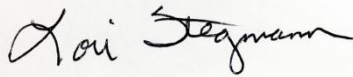
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Commissioner Nick Fish



Councilor Craig Dirksen



Commissioner Lori Stegmann



Commissioner Chloe Eudaly



Councilor Kathryn Harrington

Clackamas County



Chair Jim Bernard

Washington County



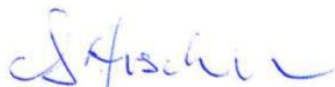
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Malinowski



Councilor Sam Chase



Councilor Bob Stacey



Commissioner Sonya Fischer



Commissioner Dick
Schouten



Commissioner Ken
Humberston



Sheriff Pat Garrett

City of Beaverton



Mayor Denny Doyle

City of Forest Grove



Mayor Pete Truax



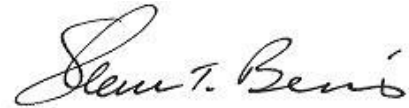
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City of Gladstone



Mayor Tammy Stempel

City of Gresham



Mayor Shane Bemis



Commissioner Martha
Schrader

City of Hillsboro



Mayor Steve Callaway

City of Milwaukie



Mayor Mark Gamba

City of Rivergrove



Mayor Heather Kibbey

City of Tigard



Mayor John Cook

City of Tualatin



Mayor Lou Ogden

City of West Linn



Mayor Russ Axelrod

City of Wilsonville



Mayor Tim Knapp

City of Wood Village



Mayor Timothy Clark

Port of Portland



Executive Director Curtis
Robinhold

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Councilor Cate Arnold

Councilor Lacey Beaty

Councilor Betty Bode

Councilor Mark Fagin

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Councilor Kyle Allen

Councilor Olivia Alcaire

City of Tualatin

Council President Joelle Davis

Councilor Paul Morrison

Councilor Robert Kellogg

Portland Community College

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