

January 29, 2020

The Honorable Christine Rolfes  
Washington State Senate  
303 John A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable John Braun  
Washington State Senate  
403A Legislative Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Timm Ormsby  
Washington State  
House of Representatives  
315 John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Drew Stokesbary  
Washington State  
House of Representatives  
411 John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable David Frockt  
Washington State Senate  
224 John A. Cherberg Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Jim Honeyford  
Washington State Senate  
112 Irv Newhouse Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Steve Tharinger  
Washington State  
House of Representatives  
314 John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Richard DeBolt  
Washington State  
House of Representatives  
314 John L. O'Brien Building  
Olympia, WA 98504

**RE: Supplemental Budget Requests**

Dear Budget Leaders:

As you work on supplemental budget proposals, we respectfully request you to consider some specific funding requests from cities. We recognize that especially in a year where you are only considering supplemental budget changes, it is difficult to balance all of the competing priorities and worthy requests. Mayors and councilmembers face similar challenges in balancing local budgets. However, we want to stress that investing in cities strengthens our state. Strong, diverse, and prosperous cities return even more revenue to the state and are better able to meet our shared goals and the needs of our state's residents.

We believe these programs and proposals are key for both the state and cities to prosper.

**Increase shared cannabis revenue.** We have a long partnership of revenue sharing to fund critical community services. We ask that you raise the amount of cannabis revenue shared with local governments from the current \$15 million per fiscal year to \$20 million per fiscal year, *the amount committed to in 2015*. This is a very small increase from the approximately \$200 million in cannabis revenue currently going into the state's general fund, but it can have a big impact on local government.

**Additional investments in homelessness crisis response.** Cities are supportive of Governor Inslee's proposal to significantly increase investments in homelessness response. In particular, cities are supportive of the proposed \$66 million for a new grant program to help cities establish and operate homeless shelters, the \$30 million capital budget request for enhanced shelters, and the \$26 million increase in the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) program to help Washingtonians who are too disabled to work from falling into homelessness.

**Provide funding for twenty-two Basic Law Enforcement Academy Classes.** Recruitment and hiring of new officers have become increasingly challenging, due in part to delays in accessing the state's basic law enforcement academy. We appreciate the investment in 19 academy classes per year in the current budget. However, the Criminal Justice Training Commission is still predicting a backlog and requests support for increased funding to allow for 22 classes per year. Additionally, we would ask for your support to fund a forecast model that the Commission can use to better predict the need for academy classes so they can make more accurate funding requests.

**Medication-assisted treatment assistance.** One of our top legislative priorities is providing medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to incarcerated individuals. To that end, we request \$50,000 in funding to build a scalable model to implement in local jail facilities. This will allow small local jails to build their own treatment programs and better estimate the costs associated with providing MAT as well as any potential revenue resources needed for each community.

**Restore additional Public Works Assistance Account funding.** Infrastructure funding continues to be one of cities' most significant needs. The Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) is a crucial funding partner in cities' efforts to provide the basic backbone of our communities. We ask that you end the current REET revenue diversions from the account as a step towards fully restoring funding. This additional revenue would help to fund the backlog of potential loan applications for worthy infrastructure projects around the state.

Thank you for your consideration regarding these requests. We know that by working collaboratively, we can best serve the residents of Washington together. We look forward to partnering with you throughout the legislative session on these and other issues. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations.

Sincerely,



Peter B. King  
Chief Executive Office