

Less better for Metro Council

To The Editor:

The Lake Oswego Review editorial: "Metro Council will be more important" misses the boat in that the public is unaware that the Metro Service District is an overlapping taxing body that is confounding and confusing city, county and state government. The committee putting together a "new home-rule charter for Metro," whatever that might be, should concentrate on diminishing and not expanding its activity.

I understand Metro was conceived to meet requirement of Congress so small communities could join and qualify for getting federal funds by matching it with local funds for local projects. I believe it all started in 1988 when Metro joined Portland with Lake Oswego and counties and the state to get federal money to buy for \$1.2 million from the Southern Pacific a long abandoned six-mile railroad between Portland and Lake Oswego. The public was told it was a good buy for a right-of-way that could in the future be used for light rail.

Portland now owns the railroad and leases it to Lake Oswego to use so it can't revert to the adjoining land-owners. In turn, Lake Oswego has contracted with some railroad,

history buffs to run a trolley during the summer for tourists to see the Willamette River and visit Lake Oswego. This well meaning group which is struggling to operate the Willamette Shores Trolley, if not already, will soon become history.

What the Metropolitan Service District should do now is to make known to the public what restrictions, if any, have been imposed by the federal government on Metro should it wish to sell the useless railroad track and use the proceeds for another form of public transportation.

William F. White
Lake Oswego

• The following candidates received endorsement from the Portland Area Women's Political Caucus, which is dedicated to the election of qualified, feminist women to political office. The group says it endorses men when no feminist women are running.

- Portland Mayor — Vera Katz
- Portland City Council
- Position 4 — Chuck Dimond
- Multnomah County Board
- District 1 — Marc Abrams, Dan Saltzman
- District 3 — Tanya Collier
- Clackamas County Board
- District 1 — Darlene Hooley
- Washington County Board
- District 1 — Kim Katsion
- District 3 — Kathy Clair
- Metropolitan Service District
- District 2 — Liz Stiller
- District 10 — Alice Blatt
- District 13 — Terry Moore

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Whatever it takes to get the job done, I guess. I have no idea what Metro does now.

Joe Ross,
candidate for the Metropolitan Service District Council, on what should be in a new Metro Charter

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Council backs regional committee

The City Council offered its support Tuesday night to the Regional Governance Committee, a group representing 23 cities in the Portland metropolitan area.

The committee, on behalf of cities like Lake Oswego, is drafting an outline of the new charter for the Metropolitan Service District. In its resolution, the Lake Oswego City Council supports the outline and several general principles of regional governance, including:

• Regional government should have general authority over matters

of metropolitan concern.

• Expansion of Metro's current functions should include identification of local government roles; financial strategies; and cooperation of local governments or a vote of the people.

• Regional government should be active in growth management.

• Collaboration with local governments should be established for budget, taxing and rate setting decisions by the regional government.

"The primary function of the outline is to look at the most effective way to deliver services region wide," Mayor Alice Schlenker said. "We don't want to give Metro broad, broad powers. We're striving for cooperation but not a huge mega-government."

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LO Review
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