



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mike Lindberg, Commissioner
1220 S.W. Fifth Ave.
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 823-4145

July 2, 1992

MEMORANDUM

TO: Metro Charter Committee

FROM: Commissioner Mike Lindberg
Office of Public Affairs

MDL

RE: Metro Charter Proposal

I want to commend the members of the Charter Committee for hundreds of hours of work in pursuit of a draft charter which could serve a wide variety of interests. As currently outlined, the draft charter does, however, contain three areas of particular concern.

First, I believe it would be a mistake to radically alter the current configuration of an elected METRO Executive and a separate elected council. A strong publicly-accountable executive has empowered METRO to address administrative issues with greater clarity, speed, and flexibility than would have been possible in the configuration suggested in the charter.

Second, the planning function, as outlined in Sections 7 and 8 of the charter sets up a new planning project and a complex 18-member body to create policy and advise. This is on top of the several regional planning processes already underway. It is redundant, vague, delegates authority over important METRO decisions and could serve to make it harder rather than easier to achieve regional consensus.

Third, if one of the real goals of the charter is the establishment of efficient regional authority, conducting localized elections to add or drop services seems entirely too cumbersome, encourages additional costs and is unlikely to produce any changes.

Despite the good efforts of the members of the Charter Committee, I believe that as it stands the draft charter does not sufficiently further the goals of creating a cost-effective regional government with significant planning authority and the potential for service delivery.

MDL:aab

cc: City Council

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