

## **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.

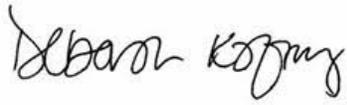
Why hate when you can love? Why divide when you can connect? Why break when you can strengthen?

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



Vice Chair Commissioner  
Jessica Vega Pederson



Commissioner Sharon Meieran



Commissioner Loretta Smith



Commissioner Lori Stegmann

**Clackamas County**



Chair Jim Bernard

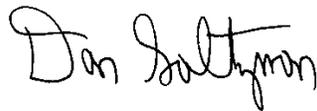
**City of Portland**



Mayor Ted Wheeler



Commissioner Amanda  
Fritz



Commissioner Dan  
Saltzman



Commissioner Nick Fish



Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

**City of Beaverton**



Mayor Denny Doyle

**Metro**



Council President Tom Hughes



Councilor Shirley Craddick



Councilor Carlotta Collette



Councilor Craig Dirksen



Councilor Kathryn Harrington



Councilor Sam Chase



Councilor Bob Stacey

**City of Forest Grove**



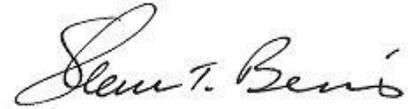
Mayor Pete Truax

**City of Gladstone**



Mayor Tammy Stempel

**City of Gresham**



Mayor Shane Bemis

**City of Hillsboro**



Mayor Steve Callaway

**City of Milwaukie**



Mayor Mark Gamba

**City of West Linn**



Mayor Russ Axelrod

**City of Wilsonville**



Mayor Tim Knapp

**Port of Portland**



Executive Director Curtis  
Robinhold

Other Elected Officials in support:

**City of Beaverton**

Councilor Cate Arnold

Councilor Lacey Beaty

Councilor Betty Bode

Councilor Mark Fagin

Councilor Marc San Soucie