



BEND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
709 NW Wall Street, Suite 102, Bend, OR 97703
www.bendmpo.org

March 16, 2021

Re: Standards for Delineating Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (OMB-2021-0001-0001)

BARB CAMPBELL, CHAIR
City of Bend Council

MEGAN PERKINS, VICE-CHAIR
City of Bend Council

RITA SCHENKELBERG
City of Bend Council

PHIL CHANG
Deschutes County Commission

ROBERT TOWNSEND
ODOT Region 4

Dear Acting Director Fairweather,

On January 19, 2021, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published a notice and a request for public comment on multiple recommendations from the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee. We are writing in response to Committee's recommendations to increase the urban area population needed to qualify as a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) from 50,000 to 100,000.

While we understand metropolitan area delineations are used for statistical purposes at OMB, these designations are also used by numerous federal agencies to establish eligibility for some federal programs and grant opportunities. The request for comment is incomplete as it does not fully describe or reference the potential list of changes to federal programs that could impact affected communities. Moreover, changes to federal programs could impact a community's access to some state and private programs and funding.

TYLER DEKE, AICP
Manager

JOVI ANDERSON
Program Coordinator

ANDREA NAPOLI, AICP
Senior Planner

We are requesting a delay in any action on this proposed change until a full disclosure of potential impacts to federal programs is known. Delaying action and generating a list of potential impacts will allow potentially impacted communities to make informed comments.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barb Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barb Campbell, Chair