



May 14, 2015

Testimony to the Joint Subcommittee on  
Capital Construction on HB 5030

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 5030

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of Carlton I am submitting testimony in support of HB 5030. Carlton is a small rural community in Yamhill County dependent on the agricultural industry. Our local economy depends on the success of all types of agriculture, including more recently the wine industry. Carlton's revitalization has been inextricably linked to the wine industry and the City is strategically positioned to take advantage of the region's continued growth in the wine industry and agritourism.

Unfortunately, Carlton's economic development has been hampered by deficiencies in its water system due to the water transmission and distribution systems' inability to convey adequate fire flows to and around town. The outcome of these deficiencies is a water system that is unable to provide sufficient fire flow from fire hydrants, a critical element to the viability of private development projects in Carlton. Insufficient fire flow from hydrants requires private development to: 1) make improvements to the distribution system; 2) provide sufficient on-site water storage; and 3) install sprinklers in their structures. In the cases of private development and redevelopment projects, the distribution system's lack of fire flow is an obstacle that prevents private investment or makes it cost prohibitive.

In 2013, Carlton participated in the Regional Solutions process and ultimately was awarded \$500,000 to make improvements to our water system in the downtown business district. The project should be under construction within the next 60-90 days. Without these funds the City would not have been able to finance this project, and our ability to grow our economy would have been stifled.

Small communities like Carlton do not have the financial ability and debt capacity to undertake needed infrastructure projects in a timely fashion without financial assistance such as that provided by the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

The City of Carlton strongly supports HB 5030 and specifically the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

Chad Olsen  
City Manager  
City of Carlton