

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

As a veteran pursuing a new career as a city manager, the Sustainable City Year Program provided unique opportunities for applied learning that help me serve Oregon. I support HB 2594 as a way to ensure that more students can serve Oregon and develop their knowledge through the SCYP model. As a future city manager, the applied skills that I am learning and the city connections that I am making ensure that I will be able to land a job in when I graduate. I chose a Master of Public Administration degree because this program, through the College of Design, takes sustainability, environmental awareness, and adaptability to new technologies seriously as issues facing metropolitan areas. The MPA program and Sustainable Cities Institute (SCI), Urbanism Next, and Sustainable Cities Year Program all work towards solving these problems. I completed an internship with the SCI because of my interest in applied learning and wanting to be a part of this fascinating program. This set the stage for my City of Eugene internship with the community development division where I learned more about how cities run and operate and attempt to design policies for the future.

That SCI, SCYP, and this school has helped me learn more about what it means to lead and run cities, means I care about the programs' continued success. I want future students to also receive the benefits I have received. Therefore, I advocate for the state support and pass HB2594 providing matching funds to SCYP going forward. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mike

Michael D. Thomas
Master of Public Administration, June 2019
Veterans Program Coordinator, Graduate Employee

