



CITY OF JACKSONVILLE



P.O. Box 7 - 206 N. 5th St.
Jacksonville, OR 97530
Tel: (541) 899-1231
Fax: (541) 899-7882
www.jacksonvilleor.us

February 21, 2019

House Committee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2594

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Education:

As the Planning Director for the City of Jacksonville, Oregon, and former student in the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP), I can attest to the efficacy and value of SCYP as an applied learning tool. The SCY Program provided me with valuable on the ground experience and tools that I continue to apply on a daily basis in my current position as a Planning Director. An essential part of my job is working with various stakeholders, community members, and public officials on long and short-range planning issues. Throughout these processes, I apply the important skills I developed during my time with the SCYP. I believe that applied learning, and programs like SCY, are critical for aspiring planners.

During my graduate studies in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Oregon, I was fortunate to participate in SCYP projects with the city of Springfield and Lane Transit District. These projects provided invaluable first-hand experience that prepared me to enter the workforce ready to serve Oregon, and my community.

The City of Jacksonville is a National Historic Landmark District that continually faces challenges of how to plan for growth while maintaining the City's status as a landmark. As such, we face complex planning challenges, all with a small staff, budget, and resources. With that, I hope that SCYP may be available to Jacksonville in the future as a result of House Bill 2594. I believe the City of Jacksonville, and other small cities throughout the state, would benefit tremendously from the SCY Program.

Sincerely,

Ian Foster
Planning Director
City of Jacksonville, Oregon
541-899-6873 x311