



March 19, 2019

CITY OF West Linn

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-477
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

I am writing to request the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means support full funding for two important state wide programs 1) **Oregon Solutions**, and 2) **Oregon Consensus**, funded as part of the dispute resolution services allocation. As the Mayor of the City of West Linn, I have experienced firsthand the benefit these programs provide in helping to support community based problem solving.

These programs are helping to address complicated and potentially contentious issues facing our community and have helped leverage the resources and support of diverse parties. I am the Chair of the Willamette Falls Locks Commission, created by the Legislature in 2017 (SB 256) to negotiate the transfer of the Locks from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to a willing public or private recipient, including agreement on a transferee, governance model and fiscal structure to allow for the repair, restoration, maintenance and operation of the Locks. The staff support for the Commission from Oregon Solutions has been instrumental in moving the Commission process forward toward agreement and implementation of this complex transaction and planning process.

Similarly, the Oregon Consensus program is helping a group of Clackamas County cities (including West Linn) to engage collaboratively with the County and Water Environment Services (WES) – an intergovernmental entity under ORS Chapter 190 created to integrate the management of three interconnected wastewater service districts. Oregon Consensus has carefully listened to the concerns of the cities with respect to governance of this infrastructure and is preparing to facilitate a collaborative discussion to address the issues with all parties.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the Legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Axelrod
Mayor, City of West Linn

eCC: State Senator Arnie Roblan
State Senator Chuck Thomsen
State Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
State Representative Christine Drazan
State Representative Mark Meek
State Representative Mike Nearman
Doug Wilson and Audrey Nieswandt, LFO