SDAO Special Districts Association of Oregon

March 22, 2023

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Woods, Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee:

SDAO has approximately 950 members representing about 32 different types of districts including fire, parks and recreation, ports, library, water, sewer, and irrigation, to name a few. Our members rely on several programs run by the Oregon Business Development Department, and we support several funding proposals contained in Governor's proposed budget for this department found under SB 5524.

Policy Option Package 102 would recapitalize the Special Public Works Fund (SPWF) with nearly $76 million. Many of our members rely on this critical funding to meet infrastructure needs related to drinking water and wastewater. Furthermore, $15 million would be dedicated to the Levee Grant Fund which is a subaccount of the SPWF. SDAO also supports funding this program fully.

We also want to ensure that the Ports Program at OBDD is fully funded. This program helps ports in ensuring that they regularly update their business plans, assist in advocacy for Oregon's ports in our Nation's Capital, and provide much needed funding for marketing and infrastructure related projects.

Continuing to fund brownfield clean-ups also is important to our membership. Cleaning these properties provides multiple benefits to our members and the citizens of Oregon including the making those properties available for new development that can generate property tax or allow our members to market those properties for new or enhanced development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark J. Landauer
Special Districts Association of Oregon

P.O. Box 12613 | Salem, Oregon 97309-0613 | PHONE: 503-371-8667 | TOLL-FREE: 1-800-285-5461 | FAX: 503-371-4781 | WEB: www.sdao.com