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On Behalf Of: City of John Day  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

#### Ways and Means Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the City of John Day's wastewater treatment plant project. The City recently requested \$10,000,000 for this project through capital funds. I am a consultant that works on funding for public infrastructure for Eastern Oregon's smallest communities. I have worked with John Day for over six years on their treatment plant project.

The current facility serves both John Day and Canyon City — the largest municipalities in Grant County and the County seat. After nearly ten years of preparation through environmental studies, engineering design, and fundraising efforts, we are now ready to begin construction of a new facility in 2026 that will meet Oregon DEQ's updated permit requirements.

For more than 15 years, the existing plant has operated out of compliance, with infrastructure dating back over 70 years — including concrete and pumps that are no longer manufactured.

Compounding the issue, FEMA recently reclassified the plant's location as a floodplain, requiring relocation of the facility.

The projected cost of the new plant is currently \$30 million. Due to tariffs and inflation, this figure is vulnerable to further increases. While the engineers have managed to reduce the estimated costs from what could have been \$35–40 million, the burden on these small communities is still

substantial. Sewer rates will nearly double, reaching \$140/month, despite our best efforts to secure outside grant funding. Just this week we learned further bad news that DEQ's Clean Water State

Revolving Fund is running out of funding and they will not be able to fully fund our \$30,000,000 request of the program.

At this stage, the only significant funding source left available to us is through state and federal legislative support. We ask for your continued advocacy on the communities' behalf

to help make  
this vital infrastructure project an affordable reality.