

**May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Oregon Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301**

**Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee,**

**On behalf of the City of Weston, I respectfully submit this letter in support of a Capital Construction funding request essential to the health, safety, and infrastructure of our community. This project reflects critical needs in our water system,**

**Water System Improvements –**

**A 1/2 Million Gallon Reservoir, Secondary Well, Stand-by Generator, and Booster Pump. Weston is seeking state support for the construction of a new well with a one-million-gallon water reservoir and an associated booster pump station, inclusive of a standby generator. At present, our system lacks sufficient storage to maintain citywide pressure during peak usage and emergencies. This project will significantly enhance water pressure, improve redundancy, and provide critical fire suppression capacity across our service area. It is an essential investment to ensure the reliability and resilience of Weston’s drinking water system.**

**We ask you to please fund us through SB 5531. This project is very critical for our city, as we have had near misses with issues in the past, with being able to supply enough water for residents and fire. The worst scenario is if there were a drought and wildfire in our area, we would have to choose what to do because our current water supply would not be sufficient. We believe this is a matter of public health and safety, and it is critical to provide water security and safety for our residents. These deficiencies are noted within our 2015 WMP (Water Master Plan) by Anderson and Perry Associates. The current best guess on total costs due to changes in the cost of materials is now at 8 million dollars for this project. We, as a small community, will need to secure outside funding to address this need.**

**We appreciate the Legislature’s continued support for rural Oregon, and we respectfully urge your consideration of these high-impact, community-focused investments. This project represents a meaningful step toward building a more resilient and livable future for the residents of Weston and greater Umatilla County.**

**Sincerely,  
Duane Thul  
Former City Mayor Weston**