

CITY of DEPOE BAY

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February 4, 2026

Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

Re: Legislative Support for Senate Bill 1585 - Grant Match Relief for Small Cities

Commerce and General Government Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1585 (SB 1585). The City of Depoe Bay has a population of approximately 1,561. Like many small communities, we face significant and unavoidable infrastructure needs while operating with limited revenue options. Since we have no permanent property tax base, Depoe Bay depends upon grants and user-based revenues. For a small city with a lean operating budget, setting aside large match amounts often means delaying projects, piecing together funding over many years, or foregoing critical infrastructure work altogether. This is not a matter of poor planning—it is simply a function of scale.

SB 1585 addresses this issue in a practical and proportional way. For our City, the proposed match caps recognize our fiscal reality while ensuring our existing local commitment. Just as important, allowing grant funds to be used for planning, engineering, and project support reflects how infrastructure projects work in small jurisdictions, where those costs can be as challenging as construction itself. This is something we are experiencing right now with the planning underway for a new water treatment plant and major upgrades needed to water and sewer main lines throughout the City. SB 1585 does not eliminate local responsibility, which we fully support. It makes state investment workable for Depoe Bay and others who lack the tax base larger cities rely on, while still safeguarding public dollars and encouraging timely, well-planned projects.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 1585, and I urge your support. This change would have a real, immediate impact on Depoe Bay and small cities across Oregon that are trying to maintain essential infrastructure responsibly and transparently.

Respectfully,

Kimberly Wollenburg
City Administrator
City of Depoe Bay

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