



## *City of Elgin*

PO Box 128 – 790 S 8<sup>th</sup> Ave - Elgin OR 97827

Voice: (541)437-2253 Fax: (541)437-0131

Greetings Chair Meek, Vice Chair Drazen, Senators,

I am submitting this letter with strong support for Senate Bill 1585 which would reduce the dollar match required of small cities in order to receive State capital construction and municipal infrastructure grants and would allow small cities to use those funds for engineering and planning as well as capital construction.

Small cities such as Elgin often find it very difficult to comply with Federal and State requirements related to Water, Wastewater, Street, and Storm Drain infrastructure with very limited resources. In today's climate these projects require very complex and expensive pre-design, planning, and engineering work even to determine approximate capital construction costs. Reality has shown that this often causes projects to be delayed, scaled back to levels that barely meet current standards (let alone accommodate for pending requirements), and have even caused cities to be unable to complete funded projects. Demographic changes will require cities to maintain existing infrastructure in rural communities with smaller populations and lower tax bases in coming decades.

This bill would help give small cities the flexibility we need to responsibly plan and deliver infrastructure that serves our residents and supports future growth. SB 1585 is not about expanding the size of grants — it's about expanding their impact across a wider cross section of the state.

As the City Administrator of the City of Elgin, I urge you to schedule SB 1585 for a work session by Monday, February 9th.

Sincerely,

Alex McHaddad

Elgin City Administrator