



February 5, 2026

Commerce and General Government Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Legislative Support for Senate Bill 1585 – Grant Match Relief for Small Cities

Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Lakeside, I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1585 (SB 1585). Like many small Oregon communities, Lakeside faces essential infrastructure needs that cannot be postponed indefinitely—yet our ability to meet standard grant match requirements is limited by the realities of a no property tax base and a lean operating budget.

For small cities, the challenge is not a lack of willingness to invest locally. It is difficult to assemble large match amounts while still maintaining day-to-day public services. In practice, high match requirements can slow critical projects, force cities into multi-year patchwork funding strategies, or prevent projects from moving forward at all—even when the need is urgent and well documented.

SB 1585 offers a practical, balanced solution by making state infrastructure investment workable for small jurisdictions. Match caps tied to community size recognize the financial constraints small cities operate under, while still preserving the principle of local commitment. In addition, allowing grant funds to cover planning, engineering, and project development costs reflects how infrastructure functions in small communities, where those early-phase expenses can be just as challenging to fund as construction itself.

This bill does not remove local responsibility, and Lakeside supports maintaining accountability and good stewardship of public funds. SB 1585 simply ensures that state grant programs remain accessible to the small cities that rely on them most—especially communities that lack the revenue tools available to larger cities. We respectfully urge your support of this legislation, which would make a meaningful difference for Lakeside and other small cities across Oregon working to maintain safe, reliable infrastructure for their residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Courteney R. Halstead".

Courteney Halstead
City Recorder/CAO