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February 4, 2026

Senators Manning Jr., Anderson, Sollman, Prozanski, and Representative Diehl,

On behalf of the City of Florence, I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 1585, which would propose caps on matching fund requirements for small cities seeking State capital construction and municipal infrastructure grants.

As a small coastal community with approximately 9,600 residents, Florence works diligently to maintain and improve critical infrastructure that serves both our year-round population and the many visitors who rely on our city's services. Like many small municipalities, we depend on grant funding to deliver major infrastructure improvements. However, to invest in new capital projects the required matching funds often place a significant financial strain on our limited local budgets.

Over our last three state grant funded capital projects, all of which required local grant matches, the City of Florence contributed approximately \$416,000 in matching funds. The local match required varied from 30% to 68%. These were funds that could otherwise have been directed toward improving roads, water systems, and other essential infrastructure throughout our community.

SB 1585 would provide greater equity and flexibility for small cities like Florence by limiting match requirements based on population size. This would allow us to stretch our limited resources further, apply for more grant opportunities, and accelerate much-needed projects that improve safety, sustainability, and livability for our residents.

This bill is not about expanding grant amounts—it's about expanding their impact. It acknowledges that a one-size-fits-all approach to matching funds disproportionately burdens smaller communities with fewer resources.

For these reasons, the City of Florence urges your full support for Senate Bill 1585. We appreciate the Legislature's ongoing commitment to ensuring that Oregon's small cities have equitable access to the funding needed to build and maintain strong, resilient infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erin Reynolds
City Manager, City of Florence