



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

725 Summer Street NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 986-0900

Fax (503) 986-0904

Testimony for Senate Bill 1585

Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government

Senator Mark Meek, Chair

Senator Christine Drazen, Vice-Chair

Submitted by: Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide informational testimony on Senate Bill 1585 and forthcoming amendments. This testimony is informational only; the Department is not taking a position on this legislation.

Water Project Funding: Feasibility Study Grants and Water Project Grants and Loans

Authorized in 2008, Feasibility Study Grants provide funding for studies that assess the feasibility of projects aimed at meeting Oregon's water supply needs. Eligible project types include water conservation, water reuse, aquifer recharge, aquifer storage and recovery, streamflow protection or restoration, and water storage. This competitive funding opportunity helps individuals and communities investigate whether a project is worth pursuing. Grants require a 25% cost match and are offered on an annual basis. Any local government, Indian tribe, or person may apply for funding.

Authorized in 2013, Water Projects Grants and Loans is a competitive funding opportunity offered twice per year to provides grants and loans for implementation-ready water projects to evaluate, plan, and develop instream and out-of-stream water projects that have economic, environmental and social/cultural benefits. Grants require a 25% cost match, and any local government, Indian tribe, or person may apply for funding.

Senate Bill 1585 Discussion

Senate Bill 1585 sets limits maximum matching fund requirements for small cities when applying to state grant programs for capital construction and municipal infrastructure. Small cities are designated as incorporated cities with a population not greater than 20,000. Percent match requirements are further divided into tiers, based on population and amount of grant award.

In conversations with bill proponents, it was unclear if the desired programs at the Department would be captured by the terms "capital construction" and "municipal infrastructure." To best achieve the objectives of the legislation, forthcoming amendments incorporate matching fund requirements directly into relevant Department funding program authorities.

The Department appreciates the collaboration from bill proponents on amendments that ensure the Department can implement the provisions of this bill in alignment the with the objectives.