

Submitter: Ryan Nolan
On Behalf Of: City of Rogue River
Committee: Senate Committee On Commerce and General Government
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1585

As the City Administrator of the City of Rogue River, I am submitting this letter with strong support for Grant Affordability legislation 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 Rogue River 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. As Oregon, and especially small cities in Western and Southern Oregon, remain attractive retirement areas for California retirees, future growth will tax the existing infrastructure of these communities even more.

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.

I urge you to work to support SB 1585.