



CITY of THE DALLES

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THE DALLES, OREGON 97058

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Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 1585

Chair Name and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jacob Anderson, and I serve as the Economic Development Officer for the City of The Dalles. I am writing on behalf of the City to express our support for Senate Bill 1585.

The Dalles is a working community where public infrastructure is directly tied to whether housing gets built, whether employers can expand, and whether we can keep our downtown and neighborhoods safe, accessible, and resilient. Our projects are not abstract. They are water, sewer, streets, sidewalks, lighting, and the basic public improvements that make private investment possible. When match requirements are set higher than our community can realistically carry, the result is delay, scope reduction, or walking away from strong projects.

SB 1585 would help cities like The Dalles deliver real projects by doing two important things.

First, it sets clear ceilings for required local match for state grants for incorporated cities under 20,000 people. For The Dalles, that predictability matters, it lets us plan responsibly, align multiple funding sources, and speak honestly with our residents and local partners about what we can commit to without overextending core services.

Second, SB 1585 clarifies that eligible grant funds can support all phases of a project, not only construction. In a city like ours, early phase costs are often the biggest barrier. Engineering, planning, and community engagement are exactly what allow a project to be designed correctly, permitted on time, and constructed efficiently. When those phases are underfunded or pushed entirely onto the local match, projects slow down and costs increase. Allowing grant dollars to cover the full project lifecycle is one of the most practical ways to improve delivery and protect public investment.

In The Dalles, we are constantly balancing the needs of a growing community with the realities of a limited tax base and competing priorities. SB 1585 is a smart statewide policy that recognizes capacity constraints in smaller cities while still preserving meaningful local participation. It will help ensure that when the state invests in communities like ours, those investments translate into completed projects that residents can see and use.

For these reasons, the City of The Dalles respectfully urges your support for SB 1585.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacob Anderson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Jacob Anderson

Economic Development Officer

City of The Dalles

Jlanderson@thedalles.gov