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# City of Prairie City

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02/20/2026

Oregon State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Housing and Development  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 1585

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Prairie City, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1585.

Prairie City is a small rural community with fewer than 500 utility customers. As one of Oregon's smaller incorporated cities, we operate with a very limited revenue base while still bearing the responsibility of maintaining safe and reliable water, sewer, street, and municipal infrastructure systems.

Matching fund requirements for state infrastructure grants can present a significant challenge for communities of our size. Even well-planned and necessary projects may be delayed or deemed infeasible when required local match percentages exceed what our small tax and utility base can reasonably support. Senate Bill 1585 would provide critical relief by establishing fair and predictable caps on matching requirements for small cities. This would allow Prairie City and similar communities to pursue essential infrastructure improvements projects without placing undue financial strain on our residents.

We also appreciate the bill's flexibility in allowing grant funds to be used for planning, engineering, and related project support costs. For small cities with limited staff and financial capacity, these upfront expenses are often just as burdensome as construction costs. The ability to use grant funding for all phases of a project will significantly strengthen our capacity to responsibly plan and deliver infrastructure improvements.

Senate Bill 1585 recognizes the financial realities facing Oregon's smallest communities and promotes equitable access to state resources. Its passage would meaningfully support Prairie City's ability to maintain essential services while remaining fiscally responsible.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of Oregon's small cities.

Sincerely,

Colby Bradford  
Mayor  
City of Prairie City