

120 Smith Street
PO Box 378
Harrisburg, OR 97446-0378
"2002 Award of Excellence"



(541) 995-6655
FAX: (541) 995-9244
TDD: (800) 753-2900
"2006 All-America City Finalist"

www.ci.harrisburg.or.us

February 24, 2026

House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection 900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

Re: Legislative Support for Senate Bill 1585 - Grant Match Relief for Small Cities

Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Chaichi & Osborne, and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1585. Like many small communities, we face significant and unavoidable infrastructure needs while operating with very limited revenue options. We rely heavily on grants and user-based revenues. For a small city with a lean operating budget, setting aside large match requirements often forces us to delay projects, assemble funding over many years, or, in some cases, forgoing critical infrastructure work altogether. This is not due to poor planning; it is simply a functional problem that small cities face on an annual basis.

SB 1585 addresses this challenge in a practical and proportionate way. For our city, the proposed match caps acknowledge our fiscal realities while still ensuring meaningful local commitment. Equally important, the bill's allowance for grant funds to support planning, engineering, and related project costs reflects how infrastructure projects actually function in small jurisdictions, where these expenses are just as challenging to fund as the construction itself.

SB 1585 does not remove local responsibility. Rather, it makes state investment workable for communities like ours that lack a large tax base, while continuing to safeguard public funds and promote timely, well-planned projects.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 1585. I respectfully urge your support. This change has a real and immediate impact on small cities across Oregon working to maintain essential infrastructure in a responsible and transparent manner.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michele Eldridge". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michele Eldridge
Harrisburg City Administrator