



CITY OF MORO

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February 23, 2026

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

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

Chair Sosa, Vice Chairs Chaichi and Osborne, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Moro, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1585.

Moro is a small, rural community and the county seat of Sherman County. Like many small cities in Eastern Oregon, we are responsible for maintaining essential infrastructure that serves not only our residents, but also regional assets — including the county courthouse, our only K–12 school district, the county’s primary medical clinic, and senior housing. Despite this level of responsibility, our revenue base remains extremely limited.

We rely heavily on competitive grants to maintain and modernize aging water, wastewater, and transportation infrastructure. However, assembling large local match requirements is often the single greatest barrier to completing critical projects. For a city our size, match obligations can delay improvements for years or make them unattainable altogether. This is not due to lack of planning or commitment, but simply the financial reality of scale in rural Oregon.

SB 1585 offers a practical solution. Reasonable match caps would allow small cities like Moro to move forward with necessary infrastructure projects while still maintaining meaningful local investment. Allowing grant funds to support planning, engineering, and project development is equally important, as these upfront costs can be especially burdensome for small jurisdictions with limited staff and resources.

This bill does not remove local responsibility. Instead, it makes state partnership workable for communities that are doing their best to responsibly steward essential public systems with a very small tax base.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 1585 and your continued support of rural communities. This legislation would make a real and immediate difference for small cities like Moro that are working hard to maintain safe, reliable infrastructure for the residents and regions we serve.

Respectfully,

City of Moro

Brittany Wood, City Administrator