

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 & Osborne, and Committee Members:

As Mayor of the City of Veneta I strongly encourage the Committee to support Senate Bill 1585 as a matter of funding fairness for Oregon's small cities like Veneta, population 5,300.

As an example, since 2019 Veneta has had designed and ready to go out to bid a critical road project to provide safe access to Veneta Elementary from both existing neighborhoods and new housing developments, but for lack of funding. Since that time, the cost of the E. Hunter Road Improvement project has grown to nearly three times the original amount and now sits at an estimated \$6.9 million!

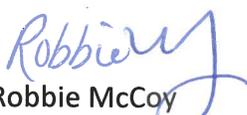
Under the current 40% match requirement for state Safe Routes to Schools funding, the City would need to commit \$2.76 million—a significant burden considering that the City receives only about \$400,000 annually from state gas tax revenues. And again, over the last 6 years that match requirement has more than doubled.

Even if the City foregoes routine street maintenance and saves up its annual state transportation funding, and its own gas tax revenues and franchise fees, the project cost will continue to grow out of financial reach of a small city like Veneta.

Senate Bill 1585's proposed 7% match for cities Veneta's size would reduce that match obligation to just \$483,000—an amount that makes the project possible. Just as important, allowing grant funds to be used for planning, engineering, and project support reflects how infrastructure projects work in small jurisdictions, where those costs can be as challenging as construction itself.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 1585, and I urge your support.

Warm regards,


Robbie McCoy
Mayor, City of Veneta