



City of Durham

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February 23rd, 2026

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

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1585: Grant Match Relief for Small Cities

Dear Commerce and General Government Committee Members,

I am the City Administrator of the City of Durham, Oregon. I write to you today to highly encourage that your esteemed Committee support Senate Bill 1585. This bill will provide small cities, like Durham, with the ability to competitively seek state grant funding.

Durham has a population of approximately 2,000 people and in Fiscal year 2024-2025 received \$154,486 in State Gas Tax revenue. The City intends to complete a road widening and sidewalk project on Peters Road, however, it is anticipated the project will cost more than ten times our annual State Gas Tax revenue. Further, the current 40% match requirement is out of our reach. With an established mill rate of \$0.49 per \$1,000 of taxable value, the City collects even less in property taxes than it receives in State Gas Tax revenue and is unable to afford supplementing from the General Fund.

Durham is in the Portland Metropolitan area and considered a 'large city' by State development standards. The City anticipates that new development will outpace our current conditions, leaving Durham in a constant state of infrastructure deficit. Senate Bill 1585's proposed 7% match will be a difference maker for small cities, like Durham, and greatly advance our ability to perform much needed road improvements.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Parente". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jordan Parente
City Administrator
City of Durham