



# LANE COUNTY

Chair Ryan Ceniga, District 1

Vice Chair Heather Buch District 5

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February 10, 2026

**SB 1585, Relating to Matching Grants for Cities**

**Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government**

Dear Chair Meek, Vice-Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee:

We write in strong support of the base language for SB 1585.

SB 1585 addresses a very real and persistent challenge facing small and mid-sized communities: the inability to access state infrastructure funding because local match requirements are out of reach. Even when projects are considered critical—whether for water, transportation, safety, or basic municipal infrastructure—high match thresholds can function as a barrier rather than a safeguard.

The base bill takes an important step toward right-sizing those requirements. By scaling match expectations to community size and capacity, it recognizes that a one-size-fits-all approach does not reflect the fiscal realities on the ground. Lowering match requirements does not reduce accountability or project quality; instead, it allows communities to compete for funding on a more equitable basis and actually deliver projects the state already wants to see built.

We do want to be clear that the -1 amendment is not our preferred outcome. The original bill offered a broader, more comprehensive approach to aligning match requirements across programs, and we believe that approach better reflects the scale of the problem small communities face.

That said, even with the -1 amendment, the bill is still a step in the right direction. It establishes an important policy foundation by acknowledging that current match requirements are often misaligned with local capacity. Just as importantly, it creates a clear opportunity for the Legislature to build on this framework in future sessions—expanding its reach, refining its application, and continuing to move toward a more equitable grant system.

Progress matters. Communities cannot wait for a perfect solution when infrastructure needs are immediate and growing. The base bill moves the state forward, and we appreciate the Legislature's willingness to begin addressing this issue.

Sincerely,

Chair Ryan Ceniga, District 1

Vice-Chair Heather Buch, District 5