



City of **SHADY COVE**

small town, BIG ADVENTURES

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.

We are REALLY struggling here in Shady Cove. We are the largest incorporated city in Oregon WITHOUT municipal water; Our wells are drying up and/or contaminated; We have a fixed property tax rate from 1972; and We have a largely disadvantaged population (majority on fixed incomes and over 60 years old). Yes, we have major issues that we need to work internally, but the hole is just too deep to dig out alone.

Like many small communities, we face significant and unavoidable infrastructure needs while operating with limited revenue options. We depend upon grants and user-based revenues. For a small city with a lean operating budget, setting aside large match amounts often means delaying projects, piecing together funding over many years, or foregoing critical infrastructure work altogether. This is not a matter of poor planning-it is simply a function of scale.

SB 1585 addresses this issue in a practical and proportional way. For our city, the proposed match caps recognize our fiscal reality while ensuring our existing local commitment. 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. SB 1585 does not eliminate local responsibility. It makes state investment workable for us and others who lack the tax base, while still safeguarding public dollars and encouraging timely, well-planned projects.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 1585, and I urge your support. This change would have a real, immediate impact on small cities across Oregon that are trying to maintain essential infrastructure responsibly and transparently. Please help cities like Shady Cove have a chance to succeed.

Respectfully,
Kathy Nuckles
Councilor, City of Shady Cove

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