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City Councilor, City of Monmouth
Monmouth, Oregon 97360

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House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Oregon Legislature

Subject: Support for SB 1585 A

Dear Chair Sosa, Vice-Chair Chaichi, Vice-Chair Osborne, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as City Councilor for the City of Monmouth in strong personal support of Senate Bill 1585 A. This bill establishes maximum matching fund requirements for state grant programs that small incorporated cities use to finance capital construction and municipal infrastructure improvements.

As a City Councilor, I see firsthand how matching requirements can create significant barriers for smaller cities seeking access to state funds for transportation enhancements, water and sewer improvements, safety upgrades, parks, and other community infrastructure. By setting reasonable maximum match percentages tied to city population, SB 1585 A helps level the playing field so cities with fewer resources can compete effectively for infrastructure grants.

In Monmouth, assembling a large local match often means delaying other essential investments or stretching already limited revenue sources. For smaller communities operating within constrained general funds, match requirements are not just administrative details; they determine whether infrastructure improvements happen at all.

This bill also allows cities with a population under 20,000 to use awarded grant funds across the full lifecycle of a project, including planning, engineering, and support services, not solely construction. That flexibility ensures projects are well planned, responsibly executed, and sustainable over time.

In communities like ours, every dollar matters. Reducing matching burdens makes it more feasible for small cities to invest in safety improvements near schools, multimodal transportation projects, water system upgrades, and other infrastructure that strengthens quality of life and local economic vitality.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support SB 1585 A so that Oregon's smaller communities are not left behind in accessing the tools they need to build and maintain essential infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher Lopez
City Councilor, City of Monmouth