



26 February 2026

House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Oregon Legislature

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

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1585A

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) in Salem. We serve low-income residents of Marion, Polk, and nine other counties across Oregon. Annually, MWVCAA administers more than \$80 million in services and direct assistance supporting housing stability, homelessness response, energy and weatherization, and early learning programs for tens of thousands of Oregonians.

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 1585A.

Community Action works alongside families striving for stability and opportunity. We see every day that safe housing, reliable utilities, and functional infrastructure are not luxuries, they are the foundation of economic mobility. When communities lack the resources to maintain and expand core infrastructure, families feel the consequences first.

Small and rural cities often face structural disadvantages. They have smaller tax bases, limited bonding capacity, and higher per-capita infrastructure costs. Yet they are frequently asked to meet the same grant match requirements as much larger jurisdictions. For many communities, that threshold becomes a barrier that prevents critical projects from moving forward.

Senate Bill 1585A offers a practical and equitable solution. By establishing reasonable match caps based on city size, the bill recognizes differences in local capacity while maintaining accountability. It allows smaller communities to compete more fairly for state resources already available.

This matters for housing. Infrastructure capacity directly affects whether new housing can be built and whether existing neighborhoods can remain safe and functional. Water systems, sewer lines, streets, and public facilities shape the conditions that allow families to stay rooted in their communities. When those systems fall behind, housing costs rise and instability increases.

SB 1585A supports prevention. It enables cities to plan responsibly and invest before deferred maintenance becomes a crisis. It strengthens local resilience and helps ensure that state investments reach communities that might otherwise be left behind.

For these reasons, MWVCAA respectfully urges your support for Senate Bill 1585A. Thank you for your continued service to Oregon communities and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Jones
Executive Director