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February 22, 2019

House Committee on Education  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem Oregon 97301

**Subject: House Bill 2594 Relating to Sustainable City Year Program at the University of Oregon**

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program. I am an Oregon native, attended college here, and believe in the power of small Oregon cities, having been city manager in La Pine and now Sisters. The "Small City Pilot" of which I was a part as the city manager in La Pine was a tremendous resource for the community.

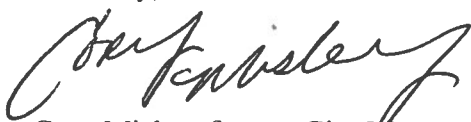
As Oregon's newest city, La Pine had a lot of things to accomplish in a condensed timeframe. We worked diligently yet there was another level when we worked with UO students. They were positive and enthusiastic about what was possible for La Pine. It was contagious. The students reminded us of the important work we were doing in local government.

The investment La Pine put into this partnership – along with support from The Ford Family Foundation – was definitely money well spent. The city is now positioned to make better decisions than we were before the partnership, and La Pine will now be able to work more effectively toward future fiscal decisions that better reflect the interests of our community and our statewide partners.

The Sustainable City Year Program gave La Pine access to the latest knowledge that is hard to get to in other ways. When I was La Pine's city manager, we were not risk averse but asking students to go for it kept us squarely focused on what may be possible rather than what was not.

I hope that other communities (especially smaller and rural) will be able to galvanize some of their efforts with the assistance of very talented students and staff from UO's Sustainable City Year Program.

Sincerely,



Cory Misley, former City Manager, La Pine, Oregon