



MAYOR SHARON KONOPA

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February 22, 2019

Representative Julie Fahey
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE, H-474
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Fahey:

HOUSE BILL 2594 RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE CITY YEAR PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

During our partnership with the Sustainable City Year Program, students and faculty contributed their expertise and ingenuity to more than 25 projects in Albany. We were very impressed by both the quantity and quality of the work produced. Student recommendations have subsequently been incorporated into plans for our parks system and the Albany waterfront, the Parks & Recreation Department's business practices, community engagement objectives and other city activities. By increasing our capacity and bringing in fresh ideas, student efforts helped save the City money and make more informed decisions about some of Albany's significant challenges.

The Sustainable City Year Program provides an extraordinary opportunity for students to contribute to Oregon's communities as they learn and prepare to enter the workforce. Based on the demonstrated positive impact of our experience with SCYP in Albany, I certainly support making this program available to more cities through dedicating state funds through HB 2594.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sharon Konopa

SK:mms

c: Ed Hodney, Parks & Recreation Director

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February 22, 2019

Page 2 of 2