

Greetings Co-chairs and Committee members,

My name is Rachel King and I am a member of the City Council in Amity, Or. I am writing today to provide testimony and input on how a portion of the state's American Rescue Plan Act funds could be utilized in a way that would provide great benefits to many Oregonians and have positive impacts on day to day lives throughout our state.

Acrossed Oregon, and the nation, all types of infrastructure that serves our citizens have been deteriorating at a faster rate than cities have been able, financially, to maintain or improve. I know this to especially be true of small and rural towns and cities such as Amity and others within Yamhill County.

Our Governor, as well as our President have recently spoken of the importance of funding infrastructure. As a Councilperson I know that prioritizing these types of maintenance and upgrade projects is forefront when trying to promote and preserve quality of life and basic livability in our cities and towns.

The incoming ARPA funds give Cities and the State an enormous opportunity to work together to provide major improvements to infrastructure that will provide long term benefits to all who live here.

Whether it be through a new program, one time investment, or community development avenue; **I would ask that the Committee seriously consider a State match of funds for any city that is using its own direct ARPA allocation to undertake an infrastructure improvement project.**

For Amity, a match of state funds towards our project plans would mean that the City would have greater ability to install efficient, working, 'smart' water meters for every water customer within our city (saving money and water long term and providing more equitable billing). A state match of ARPA funds on this project could put Amity in a better position to address other vitally necessary maintenance and improvements to our sewer system and roads before any current issues become crises.

By prioritizing, within the budget, a way to match the funds that cities are spending; you will help meet a goal of optimizing funds for the most productivity locally, and cooperatively be investing in the current and future wellbeing of Oregonians.

Matching ARPA funds spent by cities for infrastructure projects will literally double the amount that is able to be accomplished with this direct funds component of the ARPA in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

~Rachel King