



CITY OF CLATSKANIE

April 12, 2021

Co-Chair Senator Betsy Johnson;
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward;
Co-Chair Representative Dan Rayland;
Honorable Co-Vice Chairs and Members:

This letter is to request \$10 million of the \$2.6 Billion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to be allocated to the City of Clatskanie to build a new Waste-water Treatment plant. The City of Clatskanie is currently operating a treatment plant that was built in the 1970's and is reaching the end of its operational life. Our plant is operating beyond its design specifications and is experiencing increased deterioration of its structure. The plant has had two significant mechanical failures in the last 18 months resulting in out-of-permit discharges into the Clatskanie River.

The City commissioned a Facility Master Plan for a new Waste-water Treatment Plant which has been completed and approved by DEQ. The City is pursuing a grant to have the Design and Engineering work, as well as the Environmental Evaluation completed within the next several months. The Facility Master Plan estimated cost for a new plant is \$9.3 million plus \$700,000 for a new access road.

The City has explored financing options for the \$10 million plant project and it has been estimated that sewer base-rates will increase more than \$24 per month, sustained, over the next 20 years. Our aging Clatskanie community has a Low-to Moderate Income (LMI index) of 56.34%; a Median Household Annual Income of \$32,019; and 23% of the Community are Senior Citizens. Placing the cost of a \$10 million plant upon our small community, with these statistics is too much of a burden on this community.

We ask the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to allocate \$10 million dollars for this project to help our community of 1795 people. Our request, to keep it in perspective, is less than 1% of the State of Oregon's \$2.6 Billion allotment from the ARPA, but is a huge burden, as it relates, to the financial ability of our community. We respectfully submit this request for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Brajcich".

Robert Brajcich, Mayor
Clatskanie Oregon.