

The Honorable Rep. Gomburg has generously placed a request on this funding measure for a Water Tank project for the City of Waldport along the Oregon coast. He has generously offered to answer any questions you may have, but I offer this testimony to the criticality of this project.

Waldport is the bedroom community between the large tourist town of Newport, and the charming small town of Yachats on the central coast. Due to the housing crisis, Waldport is the last bastion of affordable housing in the area. But we have a proverbial gun to our head - our water tank is failing, and with it a potential crisis awaits. Six years of litigation was recently successfully completed due to faulty maintenance, but in that time the issues only got more expensive, and more deleterious. As a new City Manager, I am working desperately to get finances in order so that our City may accomplish over \$22 million in needed repairs, of which this water tank is a small part - but it is the critical lynchpin to the entire system.

Our City does not want to be dependent on 'mana from heaven'. We want to pay our own way, and not be a burden on the limited State dollars. To do so, we have recently raised rates by over 20% - a hardship shared amongst the entire community. We want to do the right thing. But we also know when we need to ask for more urgent help. We are working towards our large system rebuild, but we may not get there in time to save the water tank; and if it fails, lost is the entire community's ability to work, to live and to serve as a bastion and repository of critical fire fighting resources during fire seasons.

So, we humbly ask that this Water Tank project be seriously considered - the request is only a tenth of our total need, but we recognize every city in the state has critical needs, so we are only seeking what we fear we cannot provide timely ourselves.

Thank you for your consideration.