

Thank you. Good afternoon Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod and members of the committee, I am City Manager Andy Varner and I am here to testify in support of SB 5534 and in particular the request from the City of North Plains for Phase I of our Civic Facilities Expansion. We are requesting \$5M for this phase, with matching funds from our Urban Renewal Agency and General and Operating Funds.

North Plains is a small but growing community located on Highway 26 just north of Hillsboro. According to PSU, we are the fastest growing community in Washington County and our population will double by 2040. The ongoing population growth has led to increasing demand on City services, and will continue to do so. We are not in the Metro boundary but provide a lot of metro employer housing. We hope to become more than a bedroom community and are working on economic development initiatives but for now we don't have a commercial or industrial tax base to support many of our infrastructure needs. Our current City Hall from the 60's contains all general City staff, all Dept Directors, our Police Dept, and Public Works Dept. City Hall also functions as the current Emergency Operations Center. We have completely outgrown this small space, and the City completed a Civic Facilities Assessment in 2020 in order to expand City Hall and the Library, and to move all Public Works and Emergency Management functions to a new location on City-owned property, which is Phase I and the purpose of this request.

This project is shovel and site ready, with updated cost estimates from this past December.

In 2020 the voters of North Plains passed their first ever local fuel tax measure, and in 2022 we plan to have our first-ever Public Safety levy on the ballot. We are trying hard not to overburden our taxpayers with more bonds and levies but it is difficult to fund facilities and infrastructure which do not have an SDC-paying component. This funding request would make our project a reality. Rep Sollman is in support.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration.