

February 2, 2021

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE,  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Lively and Members of the Committee:

The Special Districts Association of Oregon represents approximately 950 districts across the state that provide a wide range of services including fire protection, parks and recreation, irrigation, library, municipal water, wastewater and ports, among others. We would like to thank the sponsor and cosponsors of HB 2345 and want to express our support for this legislation.

To provide some brief context, our member districts serve virtually every corner of the state. Forty percent of our membership operates on a budget of less than \$100,000 annually; 350 of our districts are run exclusively by volunteers and more than 400 other districts have fewer than 10 employees. The point being is that oftentimes those districts do not have the budget or staff to dedicate to the pursuit of grants or other funding sources that may be available.

HB 2345 fills that vacuum by allowing our members to work with trained professionals to assist them in the identification and pursuit of grant and other funding opportunities for infrastructure and economic development projects. Importantly, it would also provide successful recipients with grant administration assistance. One of the benefits of being awarded a grant is the plethora of paperwork that typically comes with it.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Mark Landauer  
Lobbyist  
Special Districts Association of Oregon