

To: Joint Ways and Means Committee

From: Steve Fischer, Mayor, Town of Canyon City

Re: SB 5506

The Town of Canyon City is in Support of SB5506, this funding is critical to our Capital Improvement needs.

In December 2021, Canyon City received notice from Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services that our groundwater is now affected by the influence of surface water. Previously the Springs had been classified as groundwater, therefore no filtration system was needed. This new determination from the State requires a treatment/filtration plant and the City must start from ground zero. The treatment facility requires a new building, filters, pipework, power, access, etc. completely from scratch not having any previous equipment to work with.

There are two concrete Reservoirs built about 1935 which are a low level system that serves the largest portion of the Towns' residents and businesses. One of these is offline because it leaks extensively and is beyond repair, the other is still online but also has a current leaking issue. With one Reservoir off-line the City does not have the adequate amount of water storage for fire protection on the low level. Without the full amount of necessary water storage we have dry periods in the summer when the reservoir must be supplemented from buying water from the neighboring City at an inflated rate. The Reservoirs have gone well beyond their expected useful life.

The Springs 4 inch transmission line into town was installed in approximately 1935. Much of the line is difficult to access, it lays in an area damaged by the 2015 Canyon Creek Wildfire, both are under and above ground and are now susceptible to falling trees, rocks, and landslides. The 85+ year old pipe is showing signs of its age and needs more frequent repairs. Dead/burned trees are starting to fall, and steep ground over shallow rock is susceptible to landslides that would take the entire system offline. The existing 4 inch steel transmission line does not have the capacity to transport the City's full water right usage to town. A new larger line needs to be installed to accommodate the full water right and relocated along the state highway easement for improved access and maintenance.

The City's Booster Station desperately needs to be upgraded. The City currently must manually turn pumps on and off in order to move water from the low level to the high level. Upgrading the 40+ year old booster station with a pump dedicated to transferring water will make the entire system more reliable for the City. There is currently no telemetry system and upgrades to a SCADA system would allow operators to automatically maintain reservoir levels and monitor the system.

The City's service meters range in age, some are over 30 years old. They have lost accuracy and the City is unable to read meters in the winter due to snow and ice. Our Water Project would replace them with all new radio or cellular meters. These meters would be accurate and will enable the City to monitor year around for leaks. Which will reduce manhours dedicated to meter reads and billings for the small staff of (2) public works and (1) office person.

The Town of Canyon City has applied for Capital Improvement funds in the amount of \$3,786,750, which is 92% of the projected project cost. This Capital Improvement project will help us comply with the

Oregon Health Authority, give our residents safe drinking water and enable Canyon City to have a reliable and efficient Water System.

Thank you for considering funding for the Town of Canyon City's Capital Water Project.

Steve Fischer
Mayor, Town of Canyon City