



**Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce**  
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May 5, 2023

Joint Ways and Means Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith and Committee members:

On behalf of the Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce, representing over 700 area businesses and the best interest of the community at large, I am writing to express my support for the City of Stayton's Ida Street Sewer Upsizing Capital funding request.

The existing Ida Street sewer line is undersized to properly handle existing capacity and is projected to surcharge manholes during 5-year storm events. The City is actively working to upsizing the pipe, however, does not have the sufficient funding to complete the project in its entirety in a timely manner. As a result, they are unable to approve any new development that would increase demand on the system, impacting nearly a third of the city, including the downtown core. This impact is on both housing supply as well as business development.

Stayton is a growing and highly desirable community and is already faced with limited housing supply to meet the demand. Likewise, the Chamber and other partners recognize the need for building overnight accommodations for visitors to the area, as well. Although we have interest in building a boutique hotel in our downtown core, pursuit of such is limited by the existing sewer demand issues as well. Lastly, development of new or expansion of existing businesses is also limited by these constraints.

The City's funding request of \$2,685,418 will help them complete the necessary upgrades to existing infrastructure and allow for new development to occur, allowing for multiple areas within the Stayton downtown area to residential, commercial, and industrial development or redevelopment that are currently restricted due to the capacity issues.

Thank you for your consideration.



Respectfully,

Carm lle Bielenberg, CEO  
Stayton Sublimity Chamber of Commerce  
Liaison, Stayton Sublimity Chamber GAC  
Board Member, Oregon State Chamber of Commerce