February 16, 2024

Joint Ways & Means Capital Construction Subcommittee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

SB 5201 Lottery Bond Bill and Water Infrastructure Funding

Dear Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod and Members of the Subcommittee,

As Mayor of the City of Beaverton, I strongly urge your support for SB 5201, the significant water infrastructure funding needed to meet Oregon's housing production goals and, specifically, the Kemmer Booster Pump Station capital project.

Infrastructure funding is one of the biggest burdens on local government and biggest barriers to significant housing production, whether to address aging systems or build new capacity to unlock thousands of units of housing. Beaverton is deeply appreciative of the work that Rep. Gomberg has done to collect information about near-term needs from local governments that will achieve needed housing production.

It is critical that as many of the current infrastructure needs as possible are funded through direct allocations to local government, such as Rep Gomberg's list of 50 specific, direct allocation projects in 50 districts, totaling $90 million.

For example, in the Cooper Mountain Urban Growth Boundary expansion area, Beaverton is planning for 5,000 units of needed housing. Yet without foundational infrastructure, such as the Kemmer Booster Pump Station capital project, we cannot unlock development in five new neighborhoods in this area.

There are steep inclines in these neighborhoods that need a booster pump to get the water up hill. These five neighborhoods alone are planned for an estimated 2,000 units of needed housing, including regulated affordable housing. Without the Kemmer Booster Pump Station, we cannot even draw plat lines in the area—a land use step that allows developers to get those housing units going.

Partnership with the State will make a huge difference in communities across Oregon.

I urge your support of water infrastructure project funding in SB 5201 and in any other legislation this session.

Sincerely,

Mayor
City of Beaverton