



January 28, 2025

Oregon House Higher Education Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for the Sustainable City Year Program at the University of Oregon

Dear Members of the Oregon House Higher Education Committee,

On behalf of the University of Oregon I am writing to express our strong support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. As someone who has collaborated with and contributed to this outstanding initiative, I have seen firsthand the impact SCYP has on both my students and communities across the state.

SCYP helps make it easier for me to integrate project-based learning into the classroom, which not only helps them learn material and a range of 'soft' professional skills, but their work genuinely helps the communities we partner with. My classes focus on public health and research methods for public policy and management. In one of my classes, students worked on developing methods for an equity analysis report for the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. Students were able to network with local public officials and learn more about how public service operates in the state of Oregon. This was an invaluable experience for students that allowed them to build their resume and see all the amazing work our local and state governments are doing to improve the lives of Oregonians!

A key strength of SCYP is its collaborative, statewide approach. Our partnership with the program has demonstrated the power of universities working together to serve Oregon communities, bringing diverse perspectives and expertise to the table. SCYP's success hinges on its ability to unite institutions of higher education, local governments, and civic organizations in pursuit of common goals. This cross-institutional effort not only enriches the student experience but also ensures that cities and towns throughout Oregon, regardless of size or resources, can benefit from forward-thinking solutions tailored to their unique needs.

We urge you to support sustainable and on-going funding for the Sustainable City Year Program and recognize it as an invaluable asset to Oregon's public universities and the communities we serve. Investment in SCYP will help ensure that students across the state gain practical experience, cities receive actionable solutions, and Oregon remains a leader in innovative university-community partnerships.

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OREGON

School of Planning, Public  
Policy and Management

Thank you for your attention and for your ongoing commitment to higher education and community development in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole Ngo".

Nicole S. Ngo, Ph.D.  
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