



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
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January 28, 2025

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

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

Dear Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

I am pleased to offer my strong support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. While serving as Assistant City Manager, Springfield was the SCYP partner in 2011-12 and the experience was incredible. It provided our staff with fresh perspectives, innovative policy solutions, and an energized approach to addressing community challenges.

Through our collaboration with SCYP, we engaged with talented students and faculty who brought creative ideas, data-driven insights, and forward-thinking strategies to several pressing local issues. The program infused our departments with new energy, empowering our staff to think differently, embrace innovative solutions, and build upon their professional expertise. The interdisciplinary approach of SCYP allowed us to explore policy solutions that might not have been possible within the constraints of our day-to-day operations.

Specifically, our partnership with SCYP resulted in actionable recommendations that have helped us advance key community initiatives, from sustainable transportation planning to economic development strategies and environmental resilience projects. We also built capacity in community engagement. The program provided us with valuable research and analysis to use in decision-making, fostering a culture of creativity and forward progress within the organization.

Beyond the tangible policy benefits, SCYP has also strengthened our community by fostering collaboration between the city and the academic community. It has created pathways for public service career exploration among students and built long-lasting relationships that benefit both our city and the University of Oregon.

I urge the committee to support funding for the Sustainable City Year Program to ensure that more communities across Oregon can benefit from its positive impacts. SCYP is a unique and invaluable resource that not only enhances the education of university students but also empowers local governments to innovate and thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Towery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jeff Towery

City Manager

Jeff.Towery@mcminnvilleoregon.gov