

Submitter: Zoe Taylor
On Behalf Of: SCYP
Committee: House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce
Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3109

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Legislature,

My name is Zoe Taylor, and I am a former report writer and coordinator for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. I am also a recent graduate who had the privilege of taking a class that was part of this impactful program. I am writing to express my strong support for HB3109, which would provide financial support for SCYP to reduce the cost of program participation for its partner communities. This bill is critical to ensuring the continuation and expansion of SCYP's innovative work.

SCYP connects university students with Oregon communities to collaboratively address real-world challenges through applied research and hands-on projects. In my role as a report writer and as a student participant, I saw firsthand the tangible, positive impacts of this program. Not only did it provide invaluable, experiential learning opportunities for students like me, but it also delivered actionable solutions to partner cities and organizations. The program bridges the gap between academia and practice, preparing students for their future careers while empowering communities to address pressing issues such as housing, sustainability, and infrastructure.

SCYP's current financial model has been supported by a three-year federal match, which is nearing its conclusion. State funding through HB3109 would ensure the program's sustainability and enable SCYP to offer its services at a lower cost to partner communities. This is particularly important for smaller or rural jurisdictions that might not otherwise have the resources to participate. The proposed funding would allow SCYP to continue fostering these mutually beneficial partnerships, strengthening Oregon's communities and workforce.

For me, SCYP was more than just an academic experience; it was an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to community development while gaining skills that I carry into my professional life. I know many of my peers feel the same. Legislators often hear about the importance of experiential learning, and SCYP exemplifies this by connecting the next generation of leaders with the challenges and opportunities of Oregon's cities. Supporting this program means supporting the growth of capable, engaged professionals who are ready to contribute to Oregon's future.

I urge you to pass HB3109 to ensure SCYP can continue to thrive and expand its

positive impact across the state. Thank you for considering this testimony and for your commitment to supporting programs that benefit both students and communities.

Sincerely,

Zoe Taylor