



January 29, 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,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. As a faculty who has participated through multiple undergraduate and graduate courses to this outstanding initiative, I have seen firsthand the impact SCYP has on both my students and communities across the state.

SCYP fosters project-based learning into the classroom with robust connections to communities across Oregon that would not be possible without SCYP support and coordination. Such partnerships helps my students learn material and a range of 'soft' professional skills, plus their work provides new perspectives, resources, and ideas for the communities we partner with. My classes that partner with SCYP include master's level planning courses and undergraduate courses focused on transportation policy and planning. Students are often attracted to the University of Oregon due to a desire to impart real positive change, which they can do directly through SCYP.

A critical strength of SCYP is its collaborative, statewide approach. The 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.

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

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AB'.

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