



City of Oakridge
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January 29, 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

Dear Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

As the Mayor of Oakridge, I am writing to express my wholehearted and enthusiastic support for continued state funding for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. This exceptional program has been a transformative asset to our small rural community, providing our limited city staff with access to the expertise, creativity, and innovation of undergraduate and graduate students. Thanks to SCYP, we have made significant progress in capital improvement planning, communications, land use, and economic development—initiatives that would have taken our staff years to accomplish alone.

The tangible benefits of our collaboration with SCYP are evident across various projects. From sustainable transportation planning and economic development strategies to environmental resilience initiatives, the program has provided invaluable research and analysis that continues to inform our decision-making. SCYP has helped us foster a culture of innovation, efficiency, and proactive governance.

I strongly urge the committee to support continued funding for the Sustainable City Year Program so that more communities throughout Oregon can experience the same benefits that Oakridge has. SCYP is an invaluable resource that not only enhances student education but also enables local governments to become more effective, resilient, and forward-thinking.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan P. Cutchen", is written over a white background.

Bryan P. Cutchen, Rear Admiral, USN (ret)
Mayor
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