



January 30, 2025

Chair Zach Hudson
Vice-Chair Lisa Fragala
Vice-Chair Darin Harbick
House Higher Education and Workforce Development
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 Chair Hudson, Vice-Chairs Fragala and Harbick, and members of the House Higher Education and Workforce Development,

On behalf of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC), I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. The LOC represents 241 diverse and unique cities across Oregon. Some of the LOC members have had the privilege of participating in SCYP, and the experience for them was incredible. It provided their staff with fresh perspectives, innovative policy solutions, and an energized approach to addressing community challenges.

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

Specifically, their partnership with SCYP resulted in actionable recommendations that have helped them advance key community initiatives, from sustainable transportation planning to economic development strategies and environmental resilience projects. The program provided those cities with valuable research and analysis that they continue to use in decision-making, fostering a culture of creativity and forward progress within their communities.

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

The LOC urges 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,

Nolan Pleše
Lobbyist, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC)

