



CITY OF BEND

January 30, 2025

House Higher Education Committee
Oregon State Legislature
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Subject: Letter of Support for the Sustainable City Year Program at the University of Oregon

Dear Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

On behalf of the City of The City of Bend, I am pleased to offer our support for the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) at the University of Oregon. The City of Bend participated in SCYP in 2024; it provided our staff with fresh perspectives, innovative policy solutions, and new ideas for 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 pressing local issues. 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.

Beyond the tangible policy benefits, SCYP has also fostered collaboration between our local government 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.

We 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 enhances the education of university students and supports local government innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Rankin
City of Bend
brankin@bendoregon.gov