



CITY OF REEDSPORT

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February 18, 2025

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 2693, Continued Support of the Statewide Levee Grant Program

Chair Tran and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony today as the City Manager for the City of Reedsport, a small community on Oregon's Southern coast. The City of Reedsport supports HB 2693 because it truly ensures that the communities in this state have access to grant funding, allowing them to make critical improvements to their flood safety infrastructure.

Our levee is failing. Not for lack of repair or maintenance but because it was constructed on highly organic soils and with construction techniques that are no longer accepted practice. This has resulted in 3-5 feet of settlement making parts of the levee susceptible to even a 1% chance flood or washout due to under seepage. A flood would produce flood depths behind the levee from 1-9 feet resulting in the complete destruction of the downtown and midtown areas and cutting off nearby communities from essential utilities and services. The National Flood Insurance Program has put us on notice. We currently are in a provisionally accredited levee status.

The midtown and downtown area of Reedsport is home to approximately 1400 low to moderate income residents. This area also contains all governmental offices (including state and federal), critical facilities such as the jail and fire department and areas of local commerce including the historic old town area. Without reconstruction soon, this area is destined for certain disaster.

The City of Reedsport has been working with Anderson Perry Engineers for over 10 years to create the City of Reedsport Flood Reduction Resiliency Project which will employ modern techniques for levee construction and utilize flood structures such as t-walls and sheet pile to reconstruct the levee in areas of identified hazardous seepage and extreme settlement. The project began with the design which will take into account all five sources of area flooding; including 1) Riverine, 2) Coastal Storm Surge, 3) Tsunami 4) Subsidence, and 5) Climate Change. This project is estimated at nearly \$10 million dollars.

As a cooperating technical partner with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), the City has received previous grants that set the

ground work for this project. The project is now at the design review stage (CORP 408 program). All NEPA and Environmental work has been complete. As of January 23, 2025 the city received a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) notification and a letter of commitment for \$4 million in FEMA aid from a grant written in 2017.

We are almost there but we will need additional funding from Oregon Business Development Levee Funding to reach the final construction costs without creating significant debt, that Reedsport can't afford.

Thank you for your previous support of levee operators and communities across Oregon. **Please direct \$15 million in lottery bond sales to the Levee Grant Program through your support of House Bill 2693.** This is a much-needed resource for critical flood safety infrastructure throughout our state.

Sincerely,



Deanna Schafer
City of Reedsport