



March 19, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 713, Continued Support of the Statewide Levee Grant Program

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and Members of the Committee:

The City of Warrenton is home to critical levee infrastructure that protects our residents, businesses and natural resources from the devastating impacts of coastal and riverine flooding. The City of Warrenton strongly supports SB 713. The Levee Grant Program is a critical tool to assist local governments in maintaining and certifying their dikes and levees, without which NFIP flood insurance would be required or otherwise unaffordable.

With the implementation of the FEMA Biological Opinion (Bi-Op) looming, and FEMA's cessation of issuing letters of map revision for fill being processed, Warrenton residents who build their homes above the base flood elevation (BFE) will still be required to buy insurance as if they live below the BFE and buy it as if they were high risk properties despite being required to take all measures to build above the floodplain and floodproof their properties.

The effects of Measure 5 and 50 are well known, but it's worth repeating. The permanent rate property tax in the City of Warrenton is \$1.67 per thousand. This equals \$1.1 million the city receives in property tax revenue to fund general services in the town that has the largest commercial and industrial base in Clatsop County, and has been growing by no less than 25% every census for the the past two decades. Warrenton voters are currently paying no less than five bond and operations levies to keep essential government services and facilities. There is no way our community can improve our levees without your support through the Levee Grant Program and **we urge your support to continue the Levee Grant Program.**

Thank you,

Henry A. Balensifer III  
Mayor