



City of Yamhill

A small taste of Oregon

TO: Members of the House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

FROM: Mayor Shea Corrigan and the City Council of the City of Yamhill

DATE: March 12, 2025

RE: Support for House Bill 3654 – Small Cities Grant Match Bill

Committee Chair Tran, Co-Chairs Grayber and Lewis, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shea Corrigan, and I am the Mayor of the City of Yamhill. I am writing today on behalf of the Yamhill City Council to request your committee's support of House Bill 3654 which would set a cap on certain grant matching fund requirements for small cities based on population.

To give you a brief history, the City of Yamhill was originally named North Yamhill and was incorporated under the name Yamhill by the Oregon Legislative Assembly on February 20, 1891.

A small farming town, Yamhill is located halfway between Portland and the Coast, in the heart of Willamette Valley's Wine Country. It was originally the first stagecoach stop in Oregon and had a bustling economy. Today it remains a small community with 1250 citizens who are proud to call it home.

Like many small cities, Yamhill needs significant upgrades to its infrastructure. Water, wastewater, streets and sidewalks and other capital projects all need ongoing maintenance, repairs, and improvements to provide the essential services our community requires. However, as a small city with a modest tax base, our budgets are extremely limited. Receiving resources from grants is a huge asset to cities like Yamhill; however, the required matching funds often prohibit us from applying due to our limited resources. HB 3654 would help balance this inequity for small cities by setting caps based on population for infrastructure and capital construction grants.

For example, many of the grants we commonly apply for have matching fund requirements of 20%. With infrastructure costs continuing to climb, along with increasing costs of labor, supplies, and services, it is extremely difficult for small cities to produce these dollars to compete for these grants. A tiered grant matching system based on population would provide greater equity for smaller cities like Yamhill.

That is why, on behalf of the City of Yamhill, I am requesting your committee's support of HB 3654 and urge bipartisan passage to the House floor so small cities like Yamhill – all 211 of us – can have access to the much-needed funds for infrastructure projects that our citizens require and deserve.

In closing, the City of Yamhill urges you to prioritize small cities like ours as you seek to provide equitable funding for Oregon communities, and we ask you to unanimously support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. The City of Yamhill stands ready to support you in this request.