

## Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 3654

My name is Ginger Allen. I am the Scio City Manager for the city of Scio, who has a population of 954 people. I wish to submit my written testimony in support of HB 3654.

Small cities across Oregon struggle with obtaining grant dollars because we do not have the money, nor the resources, needed to meet the prerequisites of state and federal grant opportunities.

Oregon small cities lack:

- **Engineering Staff:** Engineering services in small cities are a contracted service. Small cities are too small and lack the funds needed to support a full-time city engineer.
- **Reserving Funds:** It has taken Scio nine years to reserve \$98K to prepare for the possibility of landing a grant that would provide badly needed repairs and replacements to the city's infrastructure.
- **Rate Increases:** Small cities cannot continue to raise taxpayer rates every year, as the cost of infrastructure project soar above those rate increases.

Having spent the past nine years as the City Manager for the City of Scio, I have yet to receive a grant based upon the 20/80 formula requirements (20% matching funds to 80% Grant Funding) due to lack of match dollars and pre-required engineering services.

HB 3654 levels the playing field for all Oregon cities by establishing an achievable path to fairly distribute badly needed grant funds for state capital construction and infrastructure projects.

Sincerely,

Ginger Allen  
Scio City Manager