

SCYP Sustainable City Year Program

April 16, 2025

Good evening Co-chair Lieber, Co-chair Sanchez, and members of the committee,

My name is Megan Banks and I direct the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program, or SCYP. Thank you for hosting this public hearing and for the opportunity to talk about SCYP, a program that has and continues to help Oregon cities successfully address their vexing housing, transportation, land use, and economic development needs while also developing our next generation Oregon workforce.

Our model is straightforward: we connect a variety of university courses with one community for a full academic year to work on priority projects identified by that community. Our largest partnership year matched over 30 courses to one city – this is a unique approach that has immense value for a city as well as students. SCYP has worked all over the state for 15 years, from Medford to Silverton to Troutdale, from La Pine to Hermiston to Redmond, to name a few.

We regularly tap students and faculty from a myriad of disciplines across four public universities in Oregon to elevate our communities. We provide new ways of thinking and bold ideas while at the same time students are putting theory into practice and developing the hard and soft workforce skills that will serve them, and us, well.

As you make decisions about funding in our State and consider House Bill 3109, which would fund SCYP, please remember that SCYP provides an avenue for universities and communities to work together to advance the interests of all Oregonians, regardless of political affiliation. This innovative and well-respected program is win-win for all of Oregon. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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