

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for the City of Sandy's \$14 Million Wastewater System Funding Request

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Nosse,

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Sandy's request for \$14 million to construct critical wastewater infrastructure improvements. These improvements are essential to lifting Sandy's development moratorium, supporting much needed housing production, and protecting drinking water for hundreds of thousands of Oregonians.

Sandy is one of the fastest growing cities in Oregon, with projected demand for 2,424 additional housing units by 2043, but the lack of capacity in its wastewater system has led to a moratorium preventing Sandy from approving any new developments. With the cost of upgrading the wastewater system estimated at over \$200 million, Sandy's 5,000 utility customers are bearing extreme rate increases to pay for the needed infrastructure. Funding assistance from the State would begin to ease the financial burden local households are facing.

The \$14 million in assistance Sandy is requesting would pay for two vital and complimentary improvement projects: (1) upgrades at Sandy's wastewater treatment plant to open additional development capacity and keep the system in permit compliance while new discharge infrastructure is built, and (2) design and engineering for a new pipeline to convey Sandy's wastewater to the Gresham Wastewater Treatment Facility, allowing Sandy to end the development moratorium and shift its discharge location from a small Clackamas River tributary to the much larger Columbia River.

Without this funding assistance, Sandy's ratepayers will continue to face unsustainable increases in utility costs, and the city will struggle to accommodate future growth. Small communities like Sandy cannot continue to go it alone while the cost of infrastructure continues to increase. By awarding this funding, the State will be investing in a forward-looking regional wastewater solution that leverages economies of scale, serving as a model for other cities throughout Oregon. These improvements will also remove any future need for Sandy to discharge its wastewater to the Clackamas River watershed, a drinking water source for over 300,000 Oregonians.

Sandy's \$14 million funding request represents a prudent and necessary investment in housing, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship. I urge you to support this request and help the City of Sandy move forward with these essential projects.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Jeff Borchardt, AICP
Forward Planning Director