



April 30, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: City of Carlton Capital Construction Requests

- SE Carlton Water Distribution Improvements
- Sewer Collection Pipe Replacement

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means;

Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

On behalf of The Ground, I am writing to express strong support for the City of Carlton's capital construction requests, specifically the SE Carlton Water Distribution Improvements and the Main Street Sewer Collection Pipe Replacement. Both projects are vital to the health, safety, and long-term resilience of the City of Carlton. The SE Carlton Water Project is also included in HB 3939 due to its direct role in enabling shovel-ready affordable housing.

**SE Carlton Water Distribution System (also in HB 3939):**

The City is requesting \$1.5 million to complete a critical two-part water loop system. This project will upgrade aging cast iron lines, expand system capacity, enhance resiliency, reduce line breakage, and provide improved fire protection, particularly for the Yamhill/Carlton Elementary School. Additionally, it will support future residential development within the City's urban growth boundary.

This infrastructure is essential for the Carlton Workforce Housing Project, which will provide approximately 30 workforce-priced homes within a 100+ unit subdivision. By addressing capacity and fire flow issues, this project will help meet urgent housing needs for families and essential workers while promoting long-term community sustainability.

**Main Street Sewer Collection Pipe Replacement:**

The City is seeking \$1 million in state funding to restore lost FY25 federal support, ensuring the replacement of over 1,000 feet of deteriorating sewer mainlines and cast-

# the ground

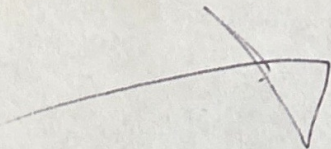
iron force main—some more than a century old. These aging pipes have failed twice in the past year, leading to raw sewage spills that threaten public health and safety.

During heavy rainfall, stormwater infiltrates through crumbling joints, overwhelming the City's wastewater treatment plant, which is designed for 450,000 gallons per day but must contend with up to 4.5 million. Replacing this infrastructure will protect public health, eliminate overflows and sinkholes, and ensure the reliability of Carlton's wastewater system. It will also support housing development, downtown revitalization, and sustainable economic growth.

In addition to our farm West of Carlton, The Ground owns several properties within the City of Carlton. The development of these properties relies on the completion of these crucial infrastructure upgrade projects. We have properties zone for both commercial and residential purposes, they will be an integral part of supporting the growth of the City and its residents.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these essential infrastructure investments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Frank Foti', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Frank Foti

Co-Founder of The Ground