

WILLAMETTE VALLEY

VINEYARDS

April 28, 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 Willamette Valley Vineyards, I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Carlton Water Distribution Improvements and Main Street Sewer Collection Pipe Replacement capital construction funding requests.

- **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-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.

Willamette Valley Vineyards is a property owner in downtown Carlton and believes these improvements would enhance the livability and vitality of the community.

Thank you for your consideration of these important requests.

Sincerely

Bill Cross

Bill Cross
Founder & Director of Government and Community Affairs
503-559-1260

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