



May 8, 2025

Oregon Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee

Oregon State Legislature

900 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee,

On behalf of the City of Weston, I am writing to express our strong support for a capital construction funding request that is crucial for the health, safety, and infrastructure of our community. This project addresses critical needs in our water system.

****Water System Improvements****

We are seeking state support to construct a new well, a half-million-gallon water reservoir, and a booster pump station, which will include a standby generator. Currently, our system lacks sufficient storage to maintain adequate pressure citywide during peak usage and emergencies. This project will significantly enhance water pressure, improve system redundancy, and provide critical fire suppression capacity across our service area. It is an essential investment to ensure the reliability and resilience of Weston's drinking water system.

We kindly ask for your support in funding this project through SB 5531. It is vital for our city, especially given our near misses in the past regarding our ability to supply enough water for both residents and fire protection. In the event of a drought or wildfire, our existing water supply may not be sufficient, leaving us with tough decisions to make. We believe this issue is a matter of public health and safety, and it is critical to ensure water security for our residents. These deficiencies have been documented in our 2015 Water Master Plan (WMP) by Anderson and Perry Associates. The current estimate for the total project cost, reflecting changes in material prices, is now approximately \$8 million. As a small community, we will need to secure outside funding to meet this urgent need.

We truly appreciate the Legislature's ongoing support for rural Oregon, and we respectfully urge you to consider this high-impact, community-focused investment. This project represents a meaningful step toward building a more resilient and livable future for the residents of Weston and greater Umatilla County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael A. Dowd". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Mike Dowd

Mayor, Weston OR

541-263-1129

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