



May 1, 2025

Sub-Committee on Capital Construction Projects
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Esteemed Members of the Sub-Committee on Capital Construction Projects,

We are writing to you to urge support for assistance in funding the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to serve the City of Silverton. The project entails the replacement of the City's existing WTP, which was constructed in 1957. The City has completed the engineering and design and, subject to putting together a funding package, anticipates bidding the project later in 2025 or early 2026.

The City of Silverton has tens of millions of dollars of other necessary water infrastructure upgrades and enhancements, including supply sources (Abiqua Dam Intake), storage facilities (Edison Water Storage Tank), and distribution lines (Silver Creek Crossing), among others. The City is committed to delivering these projects effectively and efficiently and is willing to absorb as much cost as possible, although the City is already pushing up against the utility rate affordability threshold, as defined by the State. The new WTP is a critical infrastructure investment to ensure the City can accommodate a growing mix of additional housing types.

The construction of the new WTP will significantly improve the quality of water in Silverton, making it safer and more appealing for tourists. Clean and safe water is essential for attracting visitors, particularly those interested in outdoor activities such as swimming, fishing, and boating. Improved water quality will enhance the reputation of our local attractions, such as Silver Creek and the Oregon Garden, leading to increased tourist visits and longer stays.

Moreover, the facility will support the growth of eco-tourism by ensuring that our natural resources are preserved and maintained. Tourists are increasingly seeking destinations that prioritize environmental sustainability, and this project will position Silverton as a leader in green tourism. The influx of tourists will stimulate the local economy, creating jobs and supporting businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and tour operators.

Access to clean water is essential for the health and well-being of our residents. The new WTP will ensure that all members of our community have access to safe drinking water, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and improving overall public health. This will lead to a healthier, more vibrant community where residents can thrive.

Furthermore, the project will enhance the livability of Silverton by providing reliable and high-quality water for everyday use. This will improve the quality of life for families, support local agriculture, and ensure that businesses can operate efficiently. The facility will also contribute to the sustainability of our community by implementing advanced technologies that minimize environmental impact and conserve water resources.

In conclusion, the proposed water treatment facility is a vital investment in the future of Silverton. It will bring substantial benefits to both tourism and community livability, fostering economic growth and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. We wholeheartedly support this grant application and urge you to consider the positive impact it will have on our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Palmer". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Stacy" and "Palmer" being capitalized and prominent.

Stacy Palmer, IOM
Executive Director