



CITY ADMINISTRATION
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February 6, 2026

Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: City of Prineville Support for Senate Bill 1585

Dear Senators Meek and Drazan, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and General Government,

On behalf of the City of Prineville, I am writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 1585. Prineville is an incorporated city with a population of approximately 12,000 residents. Like many small and mid-sized communities across Oregon, we are responsible for maintaining and upgrading critical municipal infrastructure—including water and wastewater systems, transportation facilities, and public buildings—while operating within a limited and carefully managed budget.

Senate Bill 1585 provides a thoughtful and equitable solution to one of the most significant barriers smaller cities face when pursuing state grant funding: high local matching requirements. Under the bill's tiered structure, cities with populations between 10,000 and 20,000 would be subject to a maximum matching requirement of 12 percent. This change would meaningfully reduce the financial burden on Prineville and allow us to better leverage state investment for essential capital construction and infrastructure projects.

Lowering and standardizing matching requirements will make state grant programs more accessible and effective, enabling cities like Prineville to move forward with necessary projects that protect public health and safety, support economic development, and ensure long-term infrastructure resilience. Additionally, the bill's provision allowing grant funds to be used for all phases of a project—including planning, engineering, and support—reflects the true costs of delivering well-designed and successful infrastructure improvements.

The City of Prineville respectfully urges your support for Senate Bill 1585 and appreciates your continued commitment to strengthening Oregon's communities.

Sincerely,

Steve Forrester, City Manager