



February 9, 2026

Chair Meek, Vice Chair Drazan, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB 1585-1. On behalf of the City of Central Point, we urge your support for this common-sense and much-needed measure.

As a city with a population under 20,000, Central Point faces infrastructure demands with far fewer resources and staff capacity than larger jurisdictions. SB 1585-1 would provide a critical boost by allowing smaller incorporated cities like ours to use capital construction and municipal infrastructure grant funding for all phases of a project, including engineering, planning, and support services, not just construction.

Capital infrastructure projects require extensive pre-construction work before a shovel can ever hit the ground. These early phases are essential to delivering safe, cost-effective, and truly shovel-ready projects. Yet under current rules, many grants only cover the construction phase, forcing small cities to pay for planning and design costs out of already limited general funds. The bill's sliding scale for local match requirements also recognizes that one size does not fit all for small jurisdictions.

For example, the City of Central Point recently received a state grant and was required to provide a 22% local match. Under the SB 1585-1 framework, that match would be capped at 12%, saving roughly \$41,000 in that single project. For small cities, upfront project costs and higher match requirements can be the difference between moving a project forward, delaying it, scaling it back, or walking away from a competitive grant opportunity altogether.

SB 1585-1 addresses these barriers directly. It gives small cities the flexibility needed to responsibly plan and deliver infrastructure that serves our residents and supports future growth.

Allowing funding for pre-construction phases helps small jurisdictions get projects right the first time. It supports stronger project design, ensures environmental and engineering compliance, and reduces the risk of costly delays and change orders later. It also supports the small consulting and engineering firms that partner with municipalities during these critical early stages.

SB 1585-1 is not about increasing the size of grants. It is about increasing their effectiveness and long-term value.

We appreciate the Legislature's recognition that one approach does not work for every community when it comes to infrastructure funding. By passing SB 1585-1, the Legislature can empower small, often rural, communities to build a stronger foundation for the future.

Sincerely,

Chris Clayton

City of Central Point, City Manager