



Representative Lamar Wise
Oregon House District 48

SB 1585 - Matching Grants for Cities

Chair Meek, Vice Chair Drazen and members of the committee, my name is Lamar Wise and I represent HD 48. I'm writing in support of SB 1585.

SB 1585 reduces maximum matching fund requirements for state grants to small incorporated cities for capital construction and municipal infrastructure.

This makes it easier for small cities, defined as those with populations no greater than 20,000, to receive critically needed funding. Cities like these face unique challenges, especially when it comes to infrastructure development as they grow. For small cities, the fiscal portion of an infrastructure project can be the most challenging part. They do not have the large tax base that larger Oregon cities often rely on.

As a result of these challenges, they may be prohibited from taking on necessary projects like upgrades to water treatment plants or transportation infrastructure. Many of these small cities are growing, making these upgrades and new projects even more urgent. High fund matching requirements can make these vital projects impossible to take on, and these small cities may fall behind.

The majority of Oregon's incorporated cities have populations of under 20,000 - small cities *are* Oregon, and we owe them support. Many of our small cities are asking for support of SB 1585. They are facing impending infrastructural challenges that will be difficult, if not impossible to tackle under current grant matching requirements. Many of these cities simply can't afford it.

With the reduced grant matching requirements of SB 1585, small cities can affordably undertake capital construction and municipal infrastructure projects that are necessary for their development. I am proud to support Oregon's small cities, which is why I am equally proud to support SB 1585. I respectfully urge your support for it, as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.