

Dear Chair Meek and Members of the Committee,

As Mayor of Seaside, a coastal community of approximately 7,300 residents, I write to express strong support for SB 1585. Like many small cities, Seaside's infrastructure must serve far more than our resident population, particularly during peak tourism seasons when our numbers multiply. Ensuring that our roads, water systems, public safety facilities, and other essential services can meet this demand is critical to the health, safety, and economic vitality of our community.

State grants are often the only viable path for small municipalities to complete major capital and infrastructure projects. However, high matching fund requirements can place significant strain on limited local budgets, forcing communities to delay or scale back urgently needed improvements. By capping match requirements based on population, SB 1585 would provide greater equity and flexibility, allowing cities like Seaside to stretch local dollars further, pursue more funding opportunities, and accelerate projects that enhance safety, sustainability, and livability.

This bill expands the real impact of state grant funding and helps ensure that smaller communities have fair access to the resources necessary to build and maintain resilient infrastructure. I respectfully urge your support for SB 1585 and appreciate your continued commitment to Oregon's small cities.

Sincerely,

Steve Wright

Mayor, City of Seaside