

February 12, 2026

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Capital Construction Subcommittee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SE Carlton Water Distribution System Improvements (City of Carlton)

Senator Girod, Representative Nosse, and Committee Members,

My name is Bill Cross and I am Director of Government and Community Affairs for Willamette Valley Vineyards. As a business property owner in Carlton, Willamette Valley Vineyards is writing in strong support of the City of Carlton's request for \$1.8 million to upsize and loop the SE water distribution system to improve reliability during peak demand and drought, and to provide needed fire protection—especially near Yamhill/Carlton Elementary School.

Reliable water infrastructure is essential to local employers. When pressure drops, outages occur, or drought constraints increase, small businesses feel immediate impacts—operations, customers, and employees are affected. This project replaces undersized, aging mains and adds redundancy through looping, which reduces service interruptions and strengthens overall system resiliency.

Carlton has already committed \$720,000 in local match toward a \$2.52 million project—an important investment by a small community.

The project can be phased/scaled based on available funding, allowing early work to target the highest-need segments and deliver immediate benefits.

Please support this request so Carlton can protect public safety, strengthen reliability, and support sustainable economic activity in Yamhill County.

Sincerely,

Bill Cross

Bill Cross
Founder & Director of Government and Community Affairs
503-559-1260

WILLAMETTE VALLEY
VINEYARDS

