

February 11, 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,

On behalf of the New Carlton Fire District, I write to strongly support the City of Carlton's request for \$1.8 million to upsize and loop the SE water distribution system.

This project will deliver the fire flow needed to protect Yamhill/Carlton Elementary School and improve system reliability during peak summer demand and drought conditions.

From an emergency response perspective, a looped and upsized system improves operational reliability by increasing available flow and reducing the risk that a single break or low-pressure event compromises firefighting capability. The proposed upgrades replacing undersized, aging mains and adding redundancy directly enhance life safety for students, residents, and first responders.

The City has committed a \$720,000 local match toward the \$2.52 million total project cost, demonstrating meaningful local investment.

The work can also be phased or scaled to prioritize the segments that deliver immediate fire-flow and reliability benefits.

We respectfully urge you to support funding for this essential public safety and resilience project.

Sincerely,



Tim Jech
Fire Chief
New Carlton Fire District
(503) 852-6233 | tjech@carltonfiredistrict.org