

To: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capitol Construction

From: Mayor Kathleen Walker, City of Sandy

Date: February 13, 2026

Re: SB 5701

For the record, my name is Kathleen Walker and I'm the Mayor of Sandy, Oregon.

I'm here today to respectfully request funding assistance from the State to help Sandy repair our wastewater collection system. Our Consent Decree with the federal government requires us to complete this work, along with many other projects. But the cost of what we're required to build has begun to squeeze the life out of our community.

For a town of just 4,500 utility ratepayers, the total cost of our compliance exceeds \$200 million. That's a completely unaffordable price tag for our small town. We've already had to impose utility rate increases of over 250%, and our residents are facing many more steep increases on their bills to afford the loans we're having to take out.

Funding from the Legislature will provide us a lifeline, and will help get us out of this situation faster. There continues to be huge demand for new housing in Sandy, but we can only meet it if we can fix this wastewater problem and end our housing moratorium.

We can't do that without your help.

We appreciate the Legislature's partnership in this challenge, and respectfully ask for your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

