



February 13, 2026

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Testimony in Support of the Wastewater Reconstruction and Repair Continuation
2025 Burns Flood**

Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Brenda Engebretson, and I am the City Manager in Burns, Oregon. I am writing to express my support for the City of Burns Capital request for Senate Bill 5701 (Lottery Bonds), for the Wastewater Reconstruction and Repair Continuation from the 2025 flood.

Citizens and businesses have been directly impacted by the spring flooding of 2025. The flood severely made the Inflow and Infiltration worse. The City of Burns began preparing for Reconstruction of the sewer system. Inflow and Infiltration studies have been completed, a 20-year facility plan has been completed and the CCTV Inspection and Cleaning is almost complete. One of the Lift Stations was severely damaged by the flood.

Currently the City of Burns is under a Mutual Agreement order with DEQ on replacing high infiltration portions of the sewer system. Many upgrades and deficiencies uncovered from the flood

Still needs to be addressed. Following are the requirements of the agreement.

- The city is currently operating under a Mutual Agreement and Order with Oregon DEQ, which requires measurable action to reduce lagoon levels and system inflows.
- The MAO requires completion of three priority sewer replacement projects between 2027 and 2028, each tied to a defined pipeline segment, pipe size, and reporting deadline to DEQ.
- By April 1, 2027, the city is required to complete replacement of approximately 3,750 linear feet of 8-inch sewer main on Foley Drive and submit a status report to DEQ by May 1, 2027.

- By December 31, 2027, the city is required to replace approximately 3,400 linear feet of sewer main on West Pierce Street and West Fillmore Street, including upsizing from 6-inch to 8-inch pipe, and submit a status report to DEQ by January 31, 2028.
- By December 31, 2028, the city is required to replace approximately 2,700 linear feet of sewer main on North Egan Avenue and submit a status report to DEQ by January 31, 2029.

These are the penalties the city will be facing if deadlines are not met.

Penalties,

\$600 for each day of violations of the corrective action schedule.

\$300 for each day of violation of the requirements in Section II, Paragraph 2, not following flood irrigation requirements from the MAO.

The City of Burns thanks you for your consideration in considering funding our continued sewer project recovery from the flood of 2025.

Respectfully,

Brenda Engebretson
City Manager
City of Burns
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