



Co-Chairs Nosse & Girod, members of the committee:

I am writing requesting support for funding for the Gold Hill Water Lines project.

Gold Hill is a beautiful town along the mighty Rogue River, home of Tilo'mikh Falls, and an original village site of the Takelma people who are now a part of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz.

As is the case in many communities across Oregon, we are facing decades of deferred maintenance of our critical infrastructure. Some of you have heard me testify before to how our water system is on the brink of catastrophic failure. This continues to be a concern.

In the last month, our plant controls failed. Wires melted and welded together, causing a cascading failure throughout the system that left us unable to make clean drinking water for several days. The week after, a large truck drove down an alley breaking a water main. The main was found to be made of several different materials, including asbestos and galvanized pipes that have corroded. The urgency to upgrade our water lines to provide clean drinking water is now.

In the two years since I left the legislature, the Council and I have taken strong steps to save Gold Hill. We have pursued and received grants to complete designs, master plan updates, and repairs. New controls and automation are being installed at the Water Plant. Last year, water rates increased by 45.7% to eliminate the deficit we were facing, to create an emergency fund, and build a capital fund over the next five years.

Over 60% of Gold Hill is low to moderate income. The base charges for water and sewer are currently \$145 before a drop of water is used. Over the next two years, our sewer rates alone are set to increase to \$155 a month.

These rate increases are well above affordability for our 573 customers. Unfortunately, they do not get us anywhere near the funds needed to make immediate essential repairs.

We have the designs complete and are shovel ready. We ask for your support in funding the \$1.5 million request for the Gold Hill Water Lines project.

Thank you for taking the time to hear all our requests.

Respectfully,

Lily Morgan
City Manager