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City of Sublimity

Micheal Taylor, Mayor
City of Sublimity
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February 13, 2026

Co-Chairs Senator Fred Girod and Representative Rob Nosse, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

On behalf of the City of Sublimity, I write in strong support of the City of Stayton's request for a \$1.9 million capital appropriation to construct the Stayton/Sublimity water intertie between our two neighboring communities.

Sublimity and Stayton have a long history of collaboration. Stayton currently provides wastewater treatment services to the City of Sublimity through an intergovernmental agreement, and our communities are deeply interconnected through shared infrastructure, schools, businesses, healthcare services, and families. What impacts one of our cities inevitably impacts the other.

The planned drawdown of Detroit Lake by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presents a serious and documented risk to Stayton's water treatment operations due to increased turbidity in the North Santiam River. Stayton's slow-sand filtration system, while highly effective under normal conditions, is particularly vulnerable to sustained high-turbidity events. If damaged, the result could be prolonged disruption of potable water service.

A disruption of that magnitude would not only affect Stayton's 8,000 residents, but also regional institutions that serve Sublimity residents, including Santiam Hospital, schools, senior housing, and shared employers.

The proposed intertie is a practical, regional solution. It would create a redundant water supply connection that allows Stayton to access treated water from Sublimity during deep drawdown events, strengthening resilience for both communities. Infrastructure redundancy is a cornerstone of modern utility planning, particularly in light of changing environmental and regulatory conditions.

Importantly, this project is not the result of local underinvestment or mismanagement. It is a direct mitigation response to impacts associated with federally driven dam operations. Small communities like ours do not have the financial capacity to absorb major capital costs tied to federal operational changes without state partnership.

This intertie represents proactive planning, regional cooperation, and responsible stewardship of public health.

For these reasons, the City of Sublimity respectfully urges your support of Stayton's \$1.9 million capital funding request.

Thank you for your consideration of this important regional infrastructure project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Taylor".

Michael Taylor, Mayor

City of Sublimity