



Mayor and City Council

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Testimony in Support of HB 3939

April 2, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Testimony in Support of House Bill 3939 – Residential Infrastructure Grant Program

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

As Mayor for the City of Carlton, I am writing to express the strong support of our citizens for House Bill 3939, which proposes to extend and expand Oregon's residential infrastructure grant program through the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD).

HB 3939 represents a critical investment in communities like ours who are working to address urgent housing needs. Carlton, like many small cities across Oregon, faces severe limitations when it comes to financing the infrastructure necessary to support housing development. This bill directly addresses those limitations.

The proposed allocation of \$1.5 million for the City of Carlton to build a two-part water loop system is particularly meaningful. This infrastructure is not just foundational—it is essential. It will expand service capacity, enhance resiliency, reduce line breakage, and enable the development of new housing within our urban growth boundary, all of which will support our long-term ability to deliver water to future residential areas, and improving critically needed fire protection for the Yamhill/Carlton Elementary School.

Carlton at this time is in need of affordable workforce housing and we are committed to leveraging this investment to create workforce and affordable housing opportunities. The accountability and affordability provisions embedded in HB 3939—including timelines, covenants, and partnerships with developers—ensure that this public investment yields measurable outcomes and lasting benefit.

On behalf of the City of Carlton and the residents we serve, I respectfully urge your support of HB 3939. It is a fiscally responsible and timely measure that will help communities across Oregon take meaningful steps toward housing and utility rate stability and infrastructure resilience.

Thank you for your attention and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Linda Watkins

Mayor, City of Carlton