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May 11, 2023

Re: Support for HB 3395 -3

CoChair Senator Woods, CoChair Representative Gomberg and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development:

The Legislative Committee of the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments (the COG) is seeking your support of HB 3395-3, and specifically the former HB 3174A as now incorporated into HB 3395 through the -3 amendment ([linked here](#)) on pages 64-65. The amendment, which is the same language from HB 3174, was adopted on June 6, 2023.

The States Councils of Government (COG's), Economic Development Districts (EDD) and Tribes are supportive of this Bill. Working with the 5 Oregon Council of Governments and the 12 Economic Development Districts, the COG supports HB3395 -3.

COG's and local governments around Oregon are working to build and maintain infrastructure such as water, sewer, broadband, stormwater, and public facilities that are in the ARPA and IIJA funds, and are prepared to access and utilize these important funds.

Many cities with populations of 5,000 or less are seeing the same significant increases in demand for housing and development as Oregon's larger cities, yet these smaller communities lack the staffing capacity for technical assistance to plan for infrastructure and public facility investments that accompany such growth. To build the capacity to meet development demands, we believe the funding in HB3395 -3 is an excellent first step to help our communities meet planning and project development requirements to support infrastructure and facility development.

To address this lack of internal capacity the MWVCOG worked with the other five COG's and Economic Development Districts, Tribes, and Business Oregon to create a cohort model of grant writing/project development and grant management teams across rural Oregon. These collective efforts are monetized in HB 3395 -3. We believe that Economic Development Districts and Councils of Government are well-positioned to deploy "rapid response" teams of professionals to assist rural entities in securing state and federal funding.

These monies will be used to build capacity in the COG to assist across the Region through the member Counties, Cities and Special Districts. Helping the local communities to be prepared for Federal and State Funding Grants is essential in for their success in the development of infrastructure that creates housing,

business, and other quality of life improvements for Oregon Citizens in our Region and the other Regions of the State of Oregon.

MWVCOG supports the efforts of HB 3395-3 and encourages the inclusion of regional capacity building with Councils of Government, Economic Development Districts, Tribal Governments, our partners at Business Oregon and the USDA in helping to integrate the opportunities to solve the issues in our states various regions.

We are thankful for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SD".

Scott F. Dadson, Executive Director

Cc: MWVCOG Legislative Committee