



**Mayor and City Council**

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**Testimony in Support of  
HB 3939**

March 29, 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 a City Councilor for the City of Carlton, I am writing to express my strong support 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 that are working to address urgent housing needs. Carlton, like many small cities across Oregon, faces real 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 capacity, enhance resiliency, reduce line breakage, enable the development of new housing within our urban growth boundary, support our long-term ability to deliver water to future residential areas, and improve fire protection for the Yamhill/Carlton Elementary School.

We are committed to leveraging this investment to create workforce and affordable housing opportunities. The *accountability and affordability provisions embedded in the bill—including timelines, covenants, and partnerships with developers*—ensure that this public investment yields measurable outcomes and lasting benefit.

On behalf of the Carlton City Council 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,

  
Shirley Ward-Mullen  
City Councilor  
City of Carlton