



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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House Democrats Lead Passage of Cost Effective Infrastructure Bill

HB 2069 will make infrastructure loans more affordable to local governments

SALEM – Oregon House Democrats today led passage of a bill that makes it more cost effective and efficient for cities and counties to build long term infrastructure projects under the State’s Special Public Works Fund.

While changing the terms of the loan repayment from 25 to 30 years might not seem like much, cities and counties feeling financial pressure right now will find relief in HB 2069.

Rep. Terry Beyer (D-Springfield), led passage of the bill, one of several bills to help create jobs and rebuild Oregon’s infrastructure in the Oregon House Democrats’ Revitalizing Oregon plan.

“Whether it is helping cities and counties build telecommunications infrastructure, water systems or sewer systems, the Special Public Works Fund is a key vehicle in providing a funding mechanism that is both efficient and accessible for those cities and counties,” said Beyer. “This bill will help cities and counties fund the critical projects they need to provide infrastructure for growing communities, new industrial lands and other projects that will aid in economic development and quality of life all over Oregon.”

The legislation is supported by the Association of Oregon Counties and the League of Oregon Cities. Both provided written testimony in committee.

“The Special Public Works Fund helps cities build and maintain infrastructure that is vital for attracting new businesses, ensuring public safety and improving public health,” wrote Chris Fick of LOC. “HB 2069 will improve a program that is already providing large dividends for Oregon’s cities, citizens and economy.”

Ann Hanus from AOC agreed: “This bill will make it more affordable for local governments by providing more flexibility with loan terms,” wrote Hanus in her letter of support. “Local governments are struggling financially... Infrastructure improvements are vital to attract and expand businesses which, in turn, retain and create jobs.”

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