**Cosponsor Request – *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* (S. XXXX)**

July XX, 2024

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

United States Senate

XXXX \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

On behalf of the (District Name), I’m writing to urge you to cosponsor the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* (S. XXXX). This important bipartisan bill would establish a formal definition of special district in federal law, as well as direct the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue guidance to federal agencies requiring special districts to be recognized as local governments for the purpose of federal financial assistance determinations.

Special districts are local governments created by the people of a community to deliver specialized services essential to their health, safety, economy and well-being. In the state of Oregon, there are over 1,000 special districts providing a broad range of public services, including fire protection, drinking water and wastewater services, healthcare, transit, natural resource conservation, mosquito abatement, and many more essential local services.

Despite the prevalence of special districts throughout the United States, federal law lacks a consistent definition of special purpose units of local government. As a result, some special districts face challenges in accessing federal funding opportunities and are commonly omitted from the definition of eligible units of local government in legislative proposals that authorize federal programs and funding. Moreover, special districts lack official population figures and are therefore not recognized by the U.S. Census Bureau as “geographic units of government.” As a result, special districts are unable to gain access to certain formula-driven grants and resources.

Sponsored by Senators Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) and John Cornyn (R-TX), the *Special District Grant Accessibility Act* represents a long-overdue, bipartisan effort designed to ensure that special districts have the same access to federal resources as other units of local government. Again, we urge you to cosponsor this important legislation and we look forward to working with you to ensure its passage in the Senate.

Thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please feel free to reach out to me/staff contact at email/phone.

Sincerely,

Name

Title