[Insert District Name] provides [Insert types of service(s)] to over [number of customers or residence] in the community of [Name or description of your community].  In total, there are 34 types of Oregon special districts including fire, water, sanitary, parks, ports, libraries, transit, health and 911 that provide some type of local government service to nearly every Oregonian, especially to those who live in disadvantaged unincorporated areas.

[Insert District Name] and nearly 1,000 special districts statewide have been hit especially hard by the pandemic and have not been able to access many of the federal funds that have been available to other types of government and private entities.  The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) allocated $2.6 billion to the State of Oregon and $1.5 billion to Oregon’s cities and counties.  The ARPA specifically allows special districts to receive a transfer of funds from the State.

A survey of special districts conducted by the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) indicates that the ongoing financial impact on special districts is estimated to be $560 million**.  We are requesting that special districts receive an allocation of 5% of the State’s share which is $130 million**.  Special districts received $25 million (or 10% of the total amount allocated to local governments) in the first round of COVID relief funds last fall.

A recent article by the League of Oregon Cities accurately described that the funds cities will be receiving from the ARPA will have a generational impact on their citizens.  They will be able to improve their infrastructure, implement new programs and services, and help their communities recover.  **Residents that live outside of cities, many in low-income areas, and who rely almost entirely on special districts for their municipal services, should have the same opportunity to better their communities by access to these funds**.

Thank you for your attention and consideration for allocating $130 million of the State’s ARPA funds to Oregon’s special districts.

Sincerely,

[Insert Your Name]

[Insert District Name]