



Representative Anna Williams
Oregon House District 52

May 8, 2020

Dear Co-Chair Holvey, Co-Chair Girod, and Subcommittee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of several projects that will benefit public health, economic development, and transportation in and around House District 52.

First, as I have testified in a separate letter with my colleague Senator Thomsen, I strongly support \$5 million in lottery funding for the Port of Hood River as part of its Hood River-White Salmon Replacement Bridge Project. At this stage in the multi-phase project, the Port is seeking \$5 million from Oregon to match a \$5 million federal BUILD grant, \$5 million from the Washington State Legislature, and \$1.25 million from the Port of Hood River. The nearly century-old bridge currently connecting these two Gorge communities is no longer suitable for the needs of the agriculture- and tourism-focused economy of the Gorge.

Second, I would like to highlight the City of Sandy's request for \$14.7 million for design and construction in the City's ongoing project to upgrade its existing wastewater treatment plant for current community needs, while it plans and designs a new treatment plant and discharge system to meet its future needs. Sandy has undergone a significant population boom in the last two decades, and is determined to correct the current shortcomings of its wastewater treatment system while looking toward the future by pursuing an innovative wetlands-based treatment opportunity at the site of the former Roslyn Lake. Having toured this site and talked repeatedly with project planners, I am excited about the opportunity it provides to the City, and I hope you will support it.

Finally, I urge the subcommittee to advance funding for two House District 52 projects that were included in 2019's House Bill 5030 but never funded due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Port of Cascade Locks' request for \$2.4 million and the City of Hood River's request for \$1.7 million were both already important asks in 2019, and are much moreso now. The Port of Cascade Locks leveraged the promise of \$2.4 million in state funding to construct and begin renting two large manufacturing facilities in its business park, but is unable to finish developing these important economic engines without the provision of those funds. The City of Hood River, whose request was already somewhat urgently needed in 2019, is only more needed now. With a failed stormwater line under the city's thriving waterfront, the possibility of sinkholes and other structural damage threaten important businesses. The City has spent many of its own

funds on beginning this project, but it has insufficient funds to cover the full cost. I urge you to include the \$1.7 million in HB 5534.

My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Williams".

Anna Williams
State Representative, House District 52