



WILLAMETTE VALLEY **WINE**

MAY 7, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
1100 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Lottery Bond Request – Newberg Dundee Bypass

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, Vice-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass and urge you to allocate funding so that phases 2 and 3 of the Bypass can be completed.

The Willamette Valley Wineries Association represents more than 215 wineries, vineyard, industry and hospitality members in the Willamette Valley American Viticultural Area (AVA). Oregon's iconic wine industry, consisting mostly of family businesses, supports rural economies and partners with the state's hospitality and tourism industries. Our mission is to promote, enhance and protect the prestige of the Willamette Valley Appellation and our wines. The Willamette Valley Wineries Association (WVWA) monitors and engages in the development of Federal and State public policy to inform its members, to participate in industry collaboration, and to advocate on behalf of the Willamette Valley wine industry.

The first phase of the Bypass has already brought improvements, but completing the next two phases of the project are critical for it to provide the needed congestion relief. With just one phase completed we've seen the bottleneck on Dundee's northern 99W entrance moved to a bottleneck at Dundee's southern 99W entrance. We would like to see the bottlenecks removed completely to make visiting the region more convenient for tourists, allow for better economic opportunities for our members to grow their businesses and for greater ease of movement for our wineries in the region.

We are asking the Legislature to make investments in order to leverage the funding necessary to complete the entire project. Thanks to investments made by the Legislature and the Oregon Transportation Commission over the past two years, Phase 2 of the bypass is now shovel ready. This \$32 million in state lottery bond funding will enable ODOT to move to construction on Phase II of the bypass while providing a critical state match that can leverage federal dollars to complete construction. We do not want to miss this opportunity to leverage federal funding from the sizeable investments made by the State and local communities.

The Newberg-Dundee Bypass is vital to our region and the wineries we represent. We respectfully request that you to make this project a priority and find the funding needed to finish the full Bypass. We appreciate your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Morgen McLaughlin
Executive Director, Willamette Valley Wineries Association

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PO Box 25162
Portland, OR 97298

503.297.2962
willamettewines.com
[@wvvines](https://www.twitter.com/wvvines)