



Lake County Board of Commissioners

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Barry Shullanberger, Commissioner
James Williams, Chairman
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May 7, 2021

Joint Subcommittee On Capital Construction.

RE: SB-5534

Co-Chairs Representative Holvey, Senator Girod, and members of the Joint Subcommittee On Capital Construction.

My name is James Williams, I am a County Commissioner and Chair in Lake County, Oregon.

Our Railroad is a critical artery for Lake County, our businesses and community, that connects us to the heart of Oregon. The railroad supports our one remaining Collins Pine Sawmill, our Perlite Mine and we hope to soon have a 3rd shipper, Redrock Biofuels, which was founded in 2011 to tackle the growing need for low-carbon, renewable jet and diesel fuels and the growing problem of catastrophic wildfires. This would require however that our rail is brought up to an appropriate standard to haul hazmat safely, and keep it off our highways.

Our railroad directly and indirectly supports hundreds of jobs in Lake County, which are critical in a County with less than 8,000 people.

The project is critical, and costs **\$10,605,000**. We were successful in obtaining an FRA CRISI grant of **5.6 million** with the remaining match coming from California DOT, Goose Lake Rail, RedRock Biofuels, and Lake County. We obtained a SPWF loan of **\$2.9 million** to move federal obligation thru in hopes of a State of Oregon match.

To replace the loan and our cash match. We are asking for **\$3,350,000**. Lake Counties current contribution to the Rehabilitation Project.

The funds will be used for tie installation, surfacing, upgrading bridge approaches, crossings, relays and project administration and management. We would appreciate any state funding available to us to replace the loan and our cash match.

Thank you very much on behalf of Lake County, Oregon.

Sincerely,

Commissioner/Chair James Williams