

Good afternoon and thank you for your time. I am Commissioner Mark Albertson from Lake County and am requesting your support of our County owned railroad. The Lake County Railroad is a 55 mile stretch of track connecting Lake County to the outside world in Alturas, California. Since its completion in January of 1912 as part of the Nevada-California-Oregon Railway., this rail has been a vital economic lifeline to the region, transporting Lake County's agriculture and natural resource products throughout the nation and the world. Today, timber shipments have largely been replaced with perlite, but the importance of the line has never been more pronounced. Reliable transportation brings industry and jobs, especially in rural Oregon.

Currently the Lake County match required for the Federal CRISI grant totals \$3,349,960

We've been approved for a \$2.9 million SPWF Loan and are also obligated to \$449,960 additional cash.

We'd like any state funding available to us to replace the loan and our cash match.

The funds will be used for tie installation, surfacing, and project administration and management.

Please consider rural Oregon and Lake County as you make your decisions today, like you we have battle Covid-19, drought, and the probable closing of WCCF. The loss of our Railroad would be the nail in our coffin. We are not asking for a handout, but a hand up.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Be blessed,

Mark Albertson
Lake County Commissioner