



May 5, 2021

Dear Proposed Funding Supporter,

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Resource Association (ORA), a statewide network that supports and advocates for those who provide services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). I am writing in support of the lifempowered Empowerment Center project to build a new facility in St. Helens, Oregon. We believe that not only would this center improve services for people with I/DD and allow for easier access to the community, it would also assist in increasing the number of people served in Columbia County and provide social and educational partnering opportunities.

As an organization that supports agencies that provide services to people with disabilities, we understand both the local disparity of our rural area and the stigma often attached to IDD services. This center is an opportunity to mitigate that.

I see the opportunity to utilize this new center for some of the following purposes:

- Social engagement opportunities for people with I/DD
- Educational opportunities and partnerships open to the whole county
- A comfortable and accessible setting for community events and meetings
- A space that provides care for lifempowered's support staff professionals

ORA supports this proposed Empowerment Center. It would enhance our community and improve opportunities for people with I/DD and other community members. Please convey my wholehearted endorsement for this much needed resource for Columbia County residents to Senator Johnson and Representative Witt as the District Legislators, the relevant legislative committees, and leaders of each chamber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lois A. Gibson".

Lois A. Gibson
Executive Director
Oregon Resource Association