

From: Bill Thorndike Jr
To: [JWMTR Exhibits](#)
Cc: SenBetsyJohnson@oregonlegislature.gov; [Rep Gomberg](#)
Subject: HB 5025 & SB 5530 / Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development / Public Hearing testimony / Thorndike/ Southern Oregon Region
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Co-Chair Senator Johnson and Co-Chair Representative Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee:

As the convener of the Southern Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee it has been my pleasure to work with the team of state agencies through our Regional Solutions Coordinator Alex Campbell and his predecessor since 2011, with an emphasis on economic development, enhancement of natural resources and job creation by better coordinated state-wide efforts in our region.

The committee I serve on links effectively with local higher education, philanthropy and business leaders. It also adds the perspectives and priorities of county commissioners in Jackson and Josephine Counties and the interests of municipal leaders at the city level.

The funding that would be provided by HB 5025 and SB 5530 in the upcoming budget would build on the success of last session's allocation that allowed for "boots on the ground" funding of locally prioritized projects that meet the goals of the Regional Solutions mandates. These funds effectively leverage other resources and coordinated efforts by the state agencies to get projects on their way to success. Examples include, the Fry Family Farm food processing center and planning for the expansion of the Grants Pass airport to meet growing demand for general aviation usage.

As one of the 11 Regional Solutions areas that could be allocated up to \$1 million to further promote locally prioritized projects from the Regional Infrastructure Fund we urge your support of HB 5025 and SB 5530 to continue to fund "local successes". Thank you.

Yours truly,

Bill Thorndike
Convener
Southern Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee

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