



OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

April 4, 2019

Honorable Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Honorable Representative Carla Piluso, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety
H-170, State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Winters and Representative Piluso, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Collectively, we represent the constituents of Lane County and want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 5513 relating to the financial administration of the Oregon Judicial Department. We are narrowing our comments to the Policy Option Package 111, which addresses courthouse replacements intended to be partially funded by State General Obligation Bonds.

Part of the Chief Justice's 2019-21 proposed budget includes \$145.5M in state bonding authority to pay for five courthouse replacement projects in Oregon, including the Lane County Courthouse. If the Committee approves this authorization, it will continue the Legislature's commitment to creating court operations which are modern, safe, and accessible.

The Legislature created the Oregon Courthouse Capital Construction Infrastructure Fund (OCCCIF) in 2013. The fund has assisted with construction of the Jefferson County Courthouse and is currently helping Multnomah County finish their downtown Portland Courthouse. We find that the Lane County Courthouse project has managed their project well; it began with two relatively small investments the Legislature authorized from the OCCCIF in 2016 and 2017.

Together, these funding streams have allowed the Lane County project to advance from a vision to a fully viable project. The County has finalized the purchase of a full city block in downtown Eugene and has utilized both the National Center for State Courts and an expert private architectural partnership to study the existing and future court needs to further develop the project. They are in the final stages of selecting a design firm for the project and are poised to begin construction in 2020 if not later this year.

This is a significant project for Lane County and a priority for the state's Circuit Court. The current pre-1960 design facility that houses the Circuit Court is highly sub-standard for public and workplace safety, with inadequate separation between victims and the accused. Moreover, because the Court house was constructed prior to any knowledge of the risk of a magnitude 9 Cascadia earthquake and seismic building code provision, the Court is particularly vulnerable to the event of an earthquake. Given current conditions, access for people with disabilities to the building is denied. This is a project that is necessary.




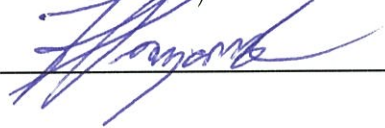
Lane County's project is the first courthouse project within the OCCIF framework that will require a locally approved bond to match the OCCIF investment. That election is scheduled to occur on May 21, 2019, and we eagerly await the news from Lane County on election night.

We stand with Lane County to complete this project and urge the Committee to approve POP 111. With this authorization, we will be able to fulfill our obligation as legislators to do for our citizens what they cannot do for themselves – modernize our courthouse for environment and public safety.


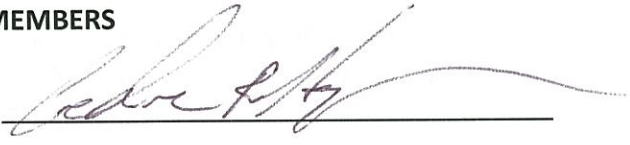
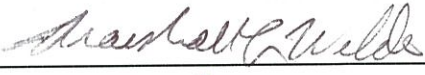
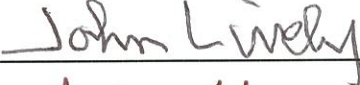

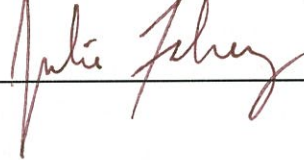
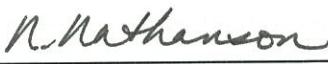
You have our thanks for your consideration of this very important and urgent request. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance in helping you to move this request forward.

Respectfully submitted,

SENATE MEMBERS

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HOUSE MEMBERS

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