



**Patricia W. Perlow**  
**Lane County District Attorney**

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
900 Court St. NE, Room H-187  
Salem OR 97031

Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee:

As you consider HB 5005, the Legislature's bonding authorization bill, I hope you will include full funding for the Oregon Judicial Department's request for the five courthouse replacement projects which are in various stages of project readiness.

As the elected District Attorney for Lane County, I have endorsed the Lane County Courthouse replacement project, and have actively worked on this issue since its inception in 2015. Most of the operations of the District Attorney are located in the current courthouse. Consensus among all of us within the building is that it is inefficient, unsafe, and inaccessible to many in our community in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Moreover, we are all at capacity; there is simply nowhere to put additional employees despite our need for growth. In fact, when courtrooms were added to the fourth floor in the early 1990s, the DA Family Law Division was moved into rented office space in the community and has had to move three times.

I want to ensure the Committee understands the broad collaboration we are part of when it comes to this project. For example there has been extensive community wide work done to finalize the location of the project. That work was followed by in-depth project scoping efforts to determine preliminary design underpinnings. In these efforts we have been joined by not only the Circuit Court, but a host of local non-governmental agencies, Lane County Departments, and those who are regularly part of the criminal justice system like the local Bar Association, Public Defenders, and Legal Aid. These collaborations will continue as the project enters its next phase.

Our operations will be incorporated into the footprint of the new building. We anticipate that facility will operate well into the next century and will truly serve as this region's justice center. We are eager to participate in the final design work necessary to complete the pre-construction phase of the project. While the project still faces a significant milestone at the May election to finalize the local match requirement, I am confident that this community recognizes and prioritizes public safety and justice issues.

Thank you for the work you are doing on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Perlow, District Attorney