

ELGIN HEALTH DISTRICT

**PO Box 983
Elgin, OR 97827**

March 4, 2021

RE: Letter in Support of a Pharmacy in Elgin, Oregon

To Whom It May Concern:

Our District was fortunate enough to raise sufficient money four years ago to build a new 8,000 square foot rural health clinic in Elgin to address more of the health needs in our rural area. We simply weren't able to offer more than medical and dental needs in our old 1,900 square foot facility. Financial support from the State, private foundations, and local businesses and residents for the larger facility (where we could add physical therapy, behavior health, and pharmaceutical offerings) was outstanding.

To date, we have added all needed health offerings except for pharmaceutical. Being a small District with a small tax and population base we just can't attract a pharmacist to our area. We have begged and pleaded with established pharmacists, chain pharmacies, and even new graduates to no avail as they all feel our small town couldn't support a full time pharmacist.

We recently initiated a survey of those using our new clinic to assess whether they felt a pharmacy was needed in town and their willingness to support it. We have already received over 250 responses and the support for a pharmacy has been unanimous!

Recently we acquired the interest of Grande Ronde Hospital in LaGrande in helping us and have developed a plan for providing these services at our clinic. The plan combines a tele-pharmacy approach for a few days each week together with an actual pharmacist present at the clinic on the other days. In this way the pharmacist could be utilized in another small nearby town with the same needs as ours as well. This approach is deemed to be financially viable but at present we lack the approval for the tele-pharmacy component of our plan.

Anything you can do to help Grande Ronde Hospital help us fill this important need would be greatly appreciated. I'm available for additional questions any time at (541) 786-1285. Thank you in advance for anything you can do to help!

Sincerely,



**Jared C. Rogers
Director/Treasurer
Elgin Health District**