



April 9, 2021

Honorable Co-Chairs:

For the record, my name is Sonya Fischer. I am a Clackamas County Commissioner here today in support of replacing the Clackamas County Courthouse.

In part, thanks to Senator Bill Kennemer's planning as a former Clackamas County Commissioner, we have been preparing for the replacement and relocation of the existing courthouse building for decades. Then-Commissioner Kennemer had the foresight to set aside land on our Red Soils campus. The site is owned by the County, the courthouse is part of our Red Soils Master Plan which has been approved by Oregon City, and much of the utility infrastructure to serve the new courthouse is already in place.

Just two months ago, our new County Commission reaffirmed its commitment to this project by identifying it as one of our Board's strategic priorities. We also unanimously adopted the county's 2021 legislative agenda, with the courthouse as our top legislative priority this session.

Over the past five years, the county has been actively working to advance this project. Throughout this time, we have been closely coordinating with the Oregon Judicial Department and the Department of Administrative Services on the many complexities that go into a project of this scale. We greatly appreciate the state's partnership in this endeavor.


Senate Bill 5505, as introduced, reflects requests included in the Governor's Recommended Budget, for the courthouse replacement construction costs of \$63.7 million. Because of the P3 financing mechanism we are using, the \$31.5 million authorized in 2019-21 was not issued. Those funds would need to be reauthorized in 2021-23. As such, Clackamas County is requesting that the project amount authorized for 2021-23 be increased to \$94.5 million to include the amount not issued in 2019-21.

The total estimated price tag for the new courthouse building is \$189 million, which represents all costs including moving expenses and furniture, fixtures, and equipment.

This is an important project for Clackamas County and you have our full-fledged commitment in recognition of the clear safety concerns presented by the building and current delays in justice that Judge Steele will speak to next.

In closing, I know you all appreciate our state is at a critical juncture socially and economically. There is a historically low cost of capital to take advantage of and pent up demand for needed public infrastructure. We want you to know that there are a lot of development teams watching this closely who are prepared to bid on this project and get people to work at a time when large projects around the metropolitan area are completed or nearing completion. We are pleased to have this project ready to go and urge you to provide the state's match.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Fischer".

Sonya Fischer, Commissioner  
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners