

WILLAMETTE VALLEY
VINEYARDS

April 14, 2021

TO: Ways and Means Co-Chairs Betsy Johnson, Elizabeth Steiner Hayward and Dan Rayfield
and Ways and Means Committee Members

FROM: Bill Cross, Director of Government & Community Affairs, Willamette Valley Vineyards

RE: Support for the Completion of the Regional Newberg-Dundee Bypass

The American Rescue Plan funding provides a wonderful opportunity to complete the Regional Newberg-Dundee Bypass including the construction of Phase II and the highway from Dayton to Dundee. This project will not only provide thousands of construction jobs but it will help reduce the negative traffic congestion in the Dundee Hills, the very heart of Oregon's internationally recognized pinot noir region. The Yamhill County bypass provides access to approximately 250 wineries and nearly 1,500 jobs.

We believe this funding should go to one-time infrastructure projects, and this project is much needed for the Willamette Valley AVA wine industry. The bypass is shovel ready and can immediately create jobs and help the economy recover including the wine industry which has been hard hit by the pandemic. Willamette Valley Vineyards is in the process of constructing the Bernau Estate outside of Dundee on Highway 99. When complete in 2022, the biodynamic farm will produce sparkling wines and feature biodynamic vineyards and gardens, streams and waterfalls, demonstration gardens and a tasting room.

Willamette Valley encourages your inclusion of the bypass project in the American Rescue Plan funding package. Please let us know if there are any questions we can answer.