

**State Representative
Brad Witt**
District 31
Columbia and portions
Of Multnomah and
Washington Counties



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House of Representatives

April 14, 2021

Dear Senator Betsy Johnson, Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Representative Dan Rayfield, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

American Rescue Plan Act infrastructure grants will be instrumental in helping House District 31 recover from the pandemic-caused economic disaster that has plagued rural Oregon. Columbia County was hard-hit by the economic devastation when businesses closed, and district residents were thrown out of work. My office worked with hundreds of individuals who lost their jobs, and then had to suffer the indignity of trying to access unemployment benefits for which they were owed. It has been a difficult year, but there is hope that some of this ARPA grant money can help my district find renewal and move forward in a positive manner while maintaining and building new critical infrastructure. Respectfully, I would like to bring your attention to the following priority requests that I have also formally submitted through the ARPA form.

Clatskanie

- New Wastewater Treatment Plant \$9,300,000.
Project replaces 45 year old plant currently operating beyond design specifications. Mechanical failures are resulting in DEQ out-of-permit discharge violations. Current problems create potential hazard to the environment and human health.

Columbia City

- Waterline replacement and fire hydrant installation \$300,000.
Project includes replacement of approximately 7 blocks of waterline, installation of fire hydrants and is needed to preserve life and property safety.
- Sewer system upgrade \$806,000.
Project includes connection to sewer system and abandonment of 32 steel septic tanks which have been prioritized due to their years of service and deteriorating condition of tanks.

Linnton

- Shoreline Access \$500,000.
For more than 30 years the Linnton community has been working to secure shoreline access. The proposal would expand public access to the Willamette River by building a new ADA path which will enable all people abled and disabled alike, by providing more local outdoor recreation opportunities.

Rainier

- Fox Creek Culvert Feasibility Study \$90,000-120,000.
Project seeks to determine best way to mitigate ongoing flood hazards and allow fish passage through an area with public and private land ownership.

Sauvie Island

- Sauvie Island Fire Department Primary Fire Engine Replacement \$450,000.
The Department's newest engine exceeds the Standard and Best Practices for service life due to age.
- Sauvie Island Fire Department used airboat, trailer and Pickup Truck \$120,000.
This is needed for rescue in water related emergencies, as more people recreate following the pandemic restrictions.

Scappoose

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase I \$9,210,000,
Project extremely needed due to failure of aeration basin. Includes replacement of equipment, and construction of new operation facility buildings.

Skyline

- ADA Bathroom and emergency exit at the community Grange Hall \$154,000.
This project would support a much needed rehabilitation of the community gathering place as people come out from social distancing restrictions, and need to reconnect with their friends and neighbors. Project includes carpentry, plumbing, electrical, appliances and HVAC upgrades.

St. Helens

- Redevelopment of the St. Helens Business Industrial Area \$15,000,000,
Project can be broken down into phases. Phase one costs slightly over \$4,500,000.
Project includes transportation, infrastructure, city water, sewer, storm water, electrical upgrades and wetlands mitigation.

Vernonia

- Louisiana North/South Connection \$398,000.
As the community rebounds from economy slowdown, this build is needed to connect schools and single-family housing in this developing area. Project includes excavation, culverts, sidewalks and paving.

It is no secret that as a rural area, HD 31 has been struggling due to the pandemic, and by funding these projects, we could help restore regular services and vibrancy to our communities. I hope you will give these requests due consideration as you allocate the ARPA grant funds.



Representative Brad Witt