

April 15, 2021

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Gerald A. Spires, 333 Teakwood Drive, Eagle Point, Oregon 97524

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

As a lifetime resident of Southern Oregon; and at 73 years of age, I have too long watched the State Legislature, and Senate prioritize the needs of the main metropolitan areas in this state above and to disregard of the vital needs of the more rural areas. I will accede that the more populous area of the state need more attention in some areas, but for too long it seems that it has been at the expense and disdain of the needs of the more rural part of the state.

With the added costs for our government agencies, because of the pandemic and the devastating fires in our area last year, I am confident that the current sitting Legislative bodies will provide the needed funding that this part of the state and other rural areas need and deserve as a part of The American Rescue Plan.

Please consider a more than equitable share of the American Rescue Plan to be designated to Southern Oregon, and other very needy rural areas of our state for abundant funding from those funds.