



April 21, 2021

Senator Lee Beyer (Co-Chair)
Representative David Gomberg (Co-Chair)
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

Re: HB 5023 Regional Infrastructure Fund

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and Gomberg:

I write in support of the Oregon Business Development (Business Oregon) budget request; in particular, the \$40M for the Regional Infrastructure fund. The Regional Infrastructure funding has been a crucial tool to assist local communities. Moving forward this funding source will assist in the recovery of Jackson and Josephine Counties from the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the Alameda and Obenchain wildfires.

Working with Southern Oregon Region of Regional Solutions this funding allows for partnering with local governments on high priority local projects, with the state playing an important role in completing high priority projects.

Having been the convener of the local southern Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee since its inception I have witnessed the collective power of aligning the state, county and municipal governments in addressing local priorities working with local fundraising and philanthropic support.

Thank you for supporting this statewide investment that meets the unique opportunities in each region of the state.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William D. Thorndike, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

William D. Thorndike, Jr.
President
Convener, Southern Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee