

LYNN P. FINDLEY
State Senator



DISTRICT 30

Baker, Grant, Harney,
Jefferson, Malheur,
Wasco, Wheeler and
parts of Clackamas,
Deschutes, Lake
and Marion Counties

OREGON SENATE

April 22, 2021

Senator Johnson (co-chair)
Senator Steiner Hayward (co-chair)
Representative Rayfield (co-chair)

RE: Regional Infrastructure Fund

Dear Co-chairs,

I write in support of the \$40M for the Regional Infrastructure fund. The Regional Infrastructure Fund has been a crucial tool to assist communities in the past. As a convener for Greater Eastern Oregon, I have seen firsthand the impact this funding can have on a community. As we move forward and our economy begins to recover from the past year, I believe this funding source will be even more essential. Eastern Oregon and our small businesses and main streets have taken a huge economic hit over the past year and we will need significant support to begin our recovery.

The Regional Infrastructure Fund has been a valuable resource for the Regional Solutions program as it aligns state resources with other public, private, philanthropic and higher education resources to complete projects that support locally identified economic and community development priorities. The Regional Solutions Advisory Committee has served as an important venue for creating consensus among regional public, private, philanthropic, and higher education leaders about the priorities in Eastern Oregon.

The Regional Infrastructure Fund is a critical source of funding to support rural priority projects. Past investments have been leveraged to support the burgeoning unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) industry at the Pendleton airport and to help develop a biomass breakdown facility in John Day.

The Regional solutions Advisory Committees stand ready to focus on recovery and ensure that we build a more resilient and equitable future for all. I recognize that there are always competing priorities for state funding. The Regional Infrastructure fund is the best way to respond to the needs of individual communities all around the state and ensure that we are investing state resources on recovery in the most efficient and valuable way possible.

Thank you for supporting investments in the unique needs of each region in the state.

Best,

Sincerely,

Lynn P. Findley