

WILLAMETTE VALLEY
VINEYARDS

May 7, 2021

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

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

RE: SB 5534 - Support for the Completion of the Regional Newberg-Dundee Bypass

The lottery bond funding in SB 5534 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.

Thanks to investments made by the Legislature and the Oregon Transportation Commission over the past two years, Phase 2 of the bypass is now shovel ready. This \$32 million in state lottery bond funding will enable ODOT to move to construction on Phase II of the bypass while providing a critical state match that can leverage federal dollars to complete construction.

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 Vineyards encourages your inclusion of the bypass project in the SB 5534 funding package. Please let us know if there are any questions we can answer.