



May 7, 2021

The Honorable Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for the Bonding Authorization of \$32 million for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass in SB 5534

Co-Chairs Holvey, Girod and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express strong support for the Newberg-Dundee Bypass and urge you to dedicate funding to accelerate completion of this vital project. We have seen the Bypass go from an idea for a solution that percolated in the community decades ago, to a reality today. With 4 of the 11 miles built, we are much closer to that solution, but to realize all the benefits the project can bring, we must keep it moving forward.

Although the first phase of the Bypass has brought improvements it has also resulted in new congestion points and unintended consequences that are bad now and will only worsen as growth in the region puts more demand on this corridor. The stretch of 99W from Dundee to the Hwy 18 turnoff, right in front of Sokol Blosser Winery, has become the new choke point. We worry about the safety of our guests and employees as they try to enter and leave our premises.

These issues will only be resolved by completing the entire regional Bypass from Rex Hill to Dayton, which will only grow more expensive with time. 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 2 of the bypass while providing a critical state match that can leverage federal dollars to complete construction. We do not want to miss this federal funding opportunity to leverage the sizable investments made by the State and local communities and obtain the funds necessary to finish the project. The Legislature and Governor have entrusted you with leading the way forward for the most critical projects in this state.

The Newberg-Dundee Bypass is absolutely vital to communities stretching from the Metro area all the way to the Central Coast. We encourage you to make this project a priority and work with our region to identify the funding needed to make this full Bypass solution a reality.

Sincerely,

Susan Sokol Blosser
Founder