



Port of Hood River

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May 7, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Capital Construction Subcommittee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for Hood River Waterfront Stormwater Line

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

I write to you today in support of the Hood River Waterfront Stormwater Line Project lottery bonding request for \$2,694,953.

In 2019, the Hood River Waterfront Stormwater Line Project was approved for \$1.7 million in Lottery Bonds as part of HB 5030. At the time, that lottery allocation was enough to fully fund Phase 1 of the Waterfront Stormwater project. Due to the pandemic, the lottery bonds were never issued, and since then the total project cost has increased by \$1 million as a result of work in and near a wetland.

Out of rising concerns about the rapid deterioration on the stormwater line and the expansion of a seasonal sinkhole, the City of Hood River had no choice but to move forward and complete Phase 1 construction. Funding was done on an emergency basis, and the project was locally funded with urban renewal dollars that were intended for economic development near the Port of Hood River. Phase 2 is currently underway, and the project must continue forward to protect the City's wastewater treatment plan and two large commercial facilities.

While the City has provided a local match and secured additional funding from DEQ and USDA, there is still a significant need for repayment and full funding sources. The City prefers to not burden local businesses with a new multi-million-dollar tax as we all work to recover from the pandemic, but it will be forced to do so if there are no other viable funding sources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael McElwee
Executive Director, Port of Hood River