

May 7, 2021

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-477
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Mr. Frederick and Ms. McLain:

We are writing to request the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means support full funding for Oregon Solutions. We currently serve as co-conveners for the Butte Falls Community Forest Project.

About Oregon Solutions

Oregon Solutions is the state's designated program that brings together collaborative teams of public, private, and civic interests to align effort and resources in support of vital community needs. Since 2001, it has been a trusted and vital resource as a first stop in helping assess a problem and recommending a path forward toward a constructive outcome. They work on projects all across Oregon. They are often highly complex, and involve multiple parties who have some level of ownership or stake in these projects. Projects also run the gamete of public issues.

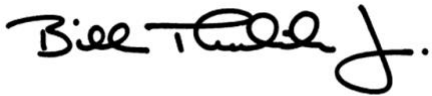
About the Butte Falls Community Forest Project

The Butte Falls Community Forest Project was designated by Governor Kate Brown as an Oregon Solutions Project in 2019. The town of Butte Falls is seeking to buy 430 acres of adjacent forestland that completely surrounds the town and bring the land into the city. The Oregon Solutions Butte Falls Project Team has worked collaboratively over the last 12 months to help facilitate and contribute to the long-term planning and implementation of the project's goal; to demonstrate how rural communities and partners can come together to create a sustainable economy and mitigate fire risk through innovative, community-based forest management. The project hopes to serve as a model of resilience and adaptation for other small Oregon communities.

This multisector team continues to support the project in completion of the land acquisition, to develop agreements and approaches to raise awareness and support for the project, to identify resources, and to develop a holistic plan table to mitigate wildfire, preserve drinking water, fish, and wildlife; and to promote economic development, recreation, tourism, and natural resources education. To date, our project has already been awarded a \$400,000 US Forest Service grant to go toward the purchase of the 430 acres; we are currently working to raise additional funds to purchase the land.

Thank you for your consideration, and please note our full support for funding Oregon Solutions.

Sincerely,



Linda Spencer

William " Bill" D. Thorndike, Jr
Co-Convener
Butte Falls Community Forest Project

Mayor Linda Spencer
Co-Convener
Butte Falls Community Forest Project

C: Senator Michael Dembrow
Sen. Chuck Thomsen
Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Rep. Bobby Levy
Rep. E. Werner Reschke
Rep. Ricki Ruiz
Karmen Fore, Oregon Solutions Director