

LA GRANDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

GARY B. BELL
Chief of Police



To: Senate Committee on Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal and World Affairs

From: Gary Bell, Chief of Police
La Grande Police Department

Date: February 23, 2023

Re: SB 478 - Testimony in Support

Chair Manning and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the La Grande Police Department, located in Union County, please accept this letter as a demonstration of my full support of SB 478 - dedicating that portion of State Highway 82, between mile marker 18 and 25 as the Deputy Raymond Williams and Deputy Michael Cheney Memorial Highway.

In May of each year, on Police Officer Memorial Day, the La Grande Police Department hosts a ceremony where we come together to provide special recognition and to honor the four police officers who have given their lives in the line of duty in Union County. During these ceremonies, we read the names of the officers, including those of Deputy Raymond Williams and Deputy Michael Cheney.

During our most recent ceremony, I shared the following words:

To Trooper Helms, Deputy Cheney, Deputy Williams, Corporal Byassee... and each of their families - your service and your sacrifice is recognized, it is remembered, and it mattered. Our community is indebted to you.

Dedicating the identified section of Highway 82 in Union County as the Deputy Raymond Williams and Deputy Michael Cheney Memorial Highway is but a small gesture of the recognition and measure of remembrance deserved for the sacrifice made by these two individuals and their families.

The La Grande Police Department and I fully support SB 478 and extend our appreciation to you and the Committee for your consideration.