



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

*Donna Beverage, Commissioner
Paul Anderes, Commissioner
R. Matthew Scarfo, Commissioner*

Shelley Burgess, Administrative Officer

1106 K Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

Phone (541)963-1001

FAX (541)963-1079

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

From: R. Matthew Scarfo, Union County Commissioner

Date: February 23, 2023

RE: SB 478 – Testimony in Support

Chair Manning and Members of the Committee,

As a member of the Union County Board of Commissioners, I would like to submit 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 Union County law enforcement and La Grande Police officers come together to provide special recognition and to honor the four police officers who have given their lives in the line of duty to Union County. During these ceremonies, the names of the fallen officers are read, including those of Deputy Raymond Williams and Deputy Michael Cheney.

During the most recent ceremony, Chief Gary Bell of the La Grande Police Department 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.

I fully support SB 478 and extend my appreciation to you and the Committee for your consideration.