



## MORROW COUNTY SHERIFF

325 Willow View Drive • P.O. Box 159  
Heppner, Oregon 97836  
Phone: (541) 676-5317  
Fax: (541) 676-5577

**John A. Bowles, Sheriff**  
**Brian L. Snyder, Undersheriff**

Date: February 28, 2023

To: Whom it may concern

My name is John Bowles Morrow County Sheriff, I have been employed with the sheriff's office for over twenty-one years. I'm writing this letter in support of the project to build a new circuit court building in Morrow County (Heppner).

The current court house building was built in 1902 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Although this building is a neat place to visit and take a picture, it does not meet the needs for a circuit court in today's world. The current court house doesn't meet the needs for adequate work space, modern technology or safety concerns. The need for a new updated circuit court building in Heppner is GREAT. A new circuit court building would benefit all Morrow County residents and visitors who use the circuit court, not to mention county staff.

Some of the law enforcement issues/ needs in a new circuit court building are:

1. Secure sally port to move custodies in and out without being see by the jury or public.
2. Single secure access point for public use.
  - a. Allows for improved screening
  - b. Ability to control foot traffic
3. Secure holding area for custodies (either in or out of the court room).
4. With a new building comes the updated wiring, internet, cameras and technology.
5. Adequate restrooms for staff, public and custodies.
6. Updated security screening equipment.
7. Meeting room for staff, attorneys and custodies.
8. An area to process custodies (fingerprint, photographs, paperwork).
9. Office for court security officer.

I absolutely support the goal of a new circuit court building for Morrow County. Again, it is greatly needed and would benefit the county as a whole. I'm excited about the possibility and look forward to seeing and working in the new Morrow County Circuit Court Building.

With appreciation,

John A. Bowles, Sheriff