

# UNION COUNTY WARMING STATION

2008 3RD ST. SUITE B  
LA GRANDE, OR 97850  
541-786-8779



March 6, 2023

Senate Human Services Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Committee Members:  
RE: SB 606 – Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act

Union County Warming Station (UCWS) asks you to pass SB 606, the Oregon Nonprofit Modernization Act. Your support is critical to the health of the nonprofit sector and the communities they serve.

The mission of UCWS is to provide (1) a welcoming, safe, compassionate place for people to stay overnight and (2) resources and pathways toward housing stability. We provided emergency shelter for nearly one hundred individuals in the 2021-2022 season, and over 1,500 “bed nights,” which accounts for the number of instances each bed was utilized, including for returning guests. (Our 2022-2023 season is still in progress and cannot be accurately reported, though current estimations clearly point to surpassing past seasons’ numbers.) We have received feedback from guests that include statements such as “thank you for saving my life,” and our volunteer force has described feeling as though they are getting more than they’re giving. In short, we provide a vital service which addresses one of the most fundamental human needs and we do so with the support of our community.

Like many nonprofits, one of the struggles we have faced at UCWS is financial. This is not because we haven’t raised enough funds, but because even after we have been granted the monies requested, we are still ultimately operating with whatever our bank account balance shows. Reimbursement models of funding, or delayed-payment models of funding can throw a wrench into making the payments necessary to implement the programs we have promised in our grant applications. The nonprofit modernization act would eliminate reimbursement as a form of payment for state grants and would require disbursement of contract funds within

30 days of the signed contract. These measures would help our organization, as well as many of our nonprofit community partners, with any state-funded grants allotted.

UCWS appreciates your consideration of SB 606. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sew".

S. Evelyn Wallace

Board of Directors co-chair