



Marion County

OREGON

Board of Commissioners

March 7, 2023

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Representative John Lively, Chair
Representative Farrah Chaichi, Vice-Chair
Representative Boomer Wright, Vice Chair

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Jan Fritz

RE: Marion County Supports HB 2261

Dear Chair Representative Lively, Vice-Chair Representative Chaichi, Vice-Chair Representative Wright, and Members of the Committee:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners write in support House Bill 2261, which would provide a fixed percentage of certain forecasted video lottery revenues be transferred to counties for economic development. Passing HB 2261 will create stability in counties' ability to plan economic development projects by giving them a more reliable calculation of funding.

Counties depend on lottery dollars to invest in economic development in our communities. At Marion County we operate and fund many different programs, including grants and long-term infrastructure projects. One example is the Santiam Canyon Sewer District that has been formed over the past few years. Lottery revenues have allowed Marion County to commit funding to support these smaller rural communities over a longer period of time. This has allowed those communities to reach a point where the Sewer District is almost ready to break ground, which will revitalize the economic viability of this community after the impacts of the 2020 wildfires.

Programs like this require a longer term, consistent investment over many quarters and years. Waiting until the end of each biennium to adjust for changes in lottery spending will force counties to conservatively under-estimate the revenues and will limit the ability to make investments in the economic fabric of our communities. Additionally, if it is found that lottery spending came in higher than anticipated by the State throughout the biennium, those funds not distributed by the State in advance of the settle-up period will not have been put to work creating jobs and bettering lives for communities across the state.

HB 2261 will not incur any additional spending to the state but will help counties make good sound decisions on investments that we know we can commit to and follow through on.

BOC: AMK

Thank you for continued work to support our communities. The Marion County Board of Commissioners urges the committee to votes yes on HB 2261.

Sincerely,



Colm Willis
Chair



Kevin Cameron
Commissioner



Danielle Bethell
Commissioner