



Board of Commissioners

P.O. Box 788 • Heppner, OR 97836
541-676-5613
www.co.morrow.or.us

Commissioner David Sykes, Chair
dsykes@co.morrow.or.us
541-256-0379

March 30, 2023

To: The Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Subject: Morrow County request for Courthouse construction funds – Policy Option Package 122 (HB 5005)

Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey, and members of the Joint Subcommittee
I am David Sykes Chair of the Morrow County Board of Commissioners

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Subcommittee on our request for funding of a new courthouse for Morrow County. Morrow County is requesting \$12,575,000 to complete the state share of the project funding. I have been assured by our finance department that these matching funds are available.

In preparation of this opportunity, we selected several promising building sites. We have already engaged DLR Group, an architectural and planning firm, to analyze each of these with a recommendation coming soon on the best location for this important facility.

A new courthouse is certainly needed since the current structure, while historical and elegant, is no longer large enough, or in the condition needed to continue as a viable court facility. It also does not have the security and other features required of a modern-day courthouse. (Please refer to the Memorandum submitted to this committee by Daniel J. Hill, Presiding Judge for a detailed and extensive description of the deficiencies of the current courthouse building and the needs of a new one.)

I want to assure the Subcommittee that Morrow County is ready to proceed once state funding is secured. We have public support, a site and available local funding.

I thank the Subcommittee for its work on making sure the judicial needs and services for the people of Morrow County are met, and ask that you please support the request from Morrow County for this important construction project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Sykes", written over a horizontal line.

David Sykes
Chair
Board of Morrow County Commissioners