



March 31, 2023

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction
RE: Consideration for Funding Deschutes County Courthouse Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the House Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

I am testifying today to ask for your support in partnering to fund the expansion of the Deschutes County Courthouse, which houses the State Circuit Court for the 11th Judicial District. In the past year, due to inflation and cost escalation, our project costs have increased from an estimated \$27 million to close to \$40.5 million.

We are requesting a \$25 million investment from the State to support this critical project, which will add approximately 60,000 square feet to our current facility through a 3-story addition, including new courtrooms and secure basement-level parking.

The key focus areas of this project are improving security, providing additional courtroom space for the two new judges that were approved by the legislature in 2021, new attorney-client conference rooms, and expanded access for participation in court proceedings.

The project will also provide expanded space for Court Administration, whose staffing needs have grown to accommodate remote proceedings and which are currently split between two locations and will position us to provide additional space to accommodate the District Attorney's Office.

During the past five years, the legislature has approved \$246 million for courthouse replacements and improvements across the state. More than 95 percent of those funds have been allocated to counties west of the Cascades. This key project is a critical step in helping Deschutes County meet the needs of our growing region.

Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Anthony DeBone
Chair, Deschutes County Board of Commissioners