



City of Cascade Locks
PO Box 308 / 140 SW WaNaPa St.
Cascade Locks, OR 97014

(541) 374-8484 Fax: (541) 374-8752

February 18, 2024

Capital Construction Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: McCord Creek Bridge Power Line Relocation Request

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Members of the Capital Construction Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The City of Cascade Locks owns the second smallest of 11 municipal electric utilities in the state, with just under 1000 hook-ups. The utility area stretches beyond the city limits to businesses and homes stretching into Multnomah County as far west as Bridal Veil at mile marker 27, providing needed power to homes, businesses, and the iconic attraction -- Multnomah Falls. The city has owned and managed the electric utility since the 1930s, even though the city does not make money on the system and, because of high repair costs, has lost money on this system year after year.

The Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) is [replacing the Eastbound I-84 bridge at mile mark 37](#) over McCord Creek, miles outside the jurisdiction of the City of Cascade Locks. The section of the City's electrical powerline that goes under the bridge and runs parallel to I-84 for a stretch of 1,500 feet needs to be removed to allow for the construction to be completed.

After looking into potential options, the City of Cascade Locks believes a permanent, partially underground solution is the best path forward. The city has received a quote for just under \$1 million to relocate the powerlines that serve the individuals living along the highway.

The small town of Cascade Locks does not have the reserves on hand to pay for the power line removal and re-installation and is asking the State Legislature to consider covering the costs related to the power-line relocation. This project, along I-84 outside the city limits, is critical for all of Oregon. We hope that you will be able to help the city by covering the costs to permanently move the power lines to allow the ODOT project to move forward.

Thank you so much for considering this request. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jordon Bennett
City Administrator