



# YTURRI ROSE LLP

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State of Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Public Safety

RE: Malheur County Courthouse Legislative Funding

Dear Joint Committee:

I write on behalf of Yturri Rose, LLP. We are a civil litigation law firm located in Malheur County, Oregon. Our attorneys have attended hearings and trials at the current Malheur County Courthouse since the time of its construction. I have personally appeared on behalf of clients in the courthouse numerous times over the last 35 years.

Over the years we have witnessed increased demand upon the staff and facilities at the Malheur County Courthouse. This includes the addition of a substantial case load upon construction of the Snake River Correctional Institution. Courtroom 2 was added to help accommodate the workload, but it is too small for a jury trial. The addition of Courtroom 2 did very little to alleviate the shortage of space to try cases in Malheur County. While it is adequate to accommodate hearings with only two parties, it is not large enough for much else.

The current courthouse is also too small to accommodate judicial settlement conferences. Attorneys and their clients must necessarily be located in the jury room (singular) and former attorney lounge in order to maintain separate caucuses. If there are multiple parties in the litigation, there is not sufficient room to accommodate each group of attorneys and clients. As a result, my clients and I have been forced to share rooms with caucuses with differing interests.

There is no longer an attorney lounge in the courthouse. Instead, a few small cubicles were created to provide space for attorneys to meet with their clients. These cubicles do not provide privacy. One can hear what is being said in the room next door. They are extremely small and uncomfortable and are often times filled with materials left by criminal defense contract attorneys who frequently appear in court and use the limited attorney client rooms as their workspace between hearings.

The Malheur County Judges and staff work hard to accommodate attorneys and their clients who are forced to try cases under difficult circumstances. However, the facilities are clearly inadequate and do not come close to measuring up to courthouse facilities provided in other judicial districts.

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Yturri Rose, LLP, strongly supports legislative funding of a new Malheur County Courthouse. We believe a new facility is required to ensure access to justice to the citizens of Malheur County and others who find themselves with a need to appear before the court. We urge the Joint Committee to press for legislative funding. Thank you.

Sincerely,

YTURRI ROSE LLP



Bruno J. Jagelski

BJJ/cg