



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Youth Authority

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April 16, 2025

The Honorable Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 5505 Bonding Authorization and SB 5506 Capital Construction Limitation for Oregon Youth Authority

The Oregon Youth Authority capital projects proposed in Senate Bills 5505 and 5506 **enhance youth and staff safety, support youth development, and strengthen infrastructure.**

OYA completed the following projects in the 23-25 biennium with prior bond funding:

- OCYCF Medical/Dental Construction
- Eastern Oregon Roof Replacement
- Rogue Valley Unit C Renovation
- MacLaren YCF Fossil and Haystack Living Unit Renovation
- EOYCF Walk-in Freezer
- OCYCF Tattoo Removal Space
- Camp Tillamook Kitchen and Recreation Room Renovation

Thank you for these prior investments, and we ask for your continued support of our bonding needs.

First among our needs is **enhanced youth and staff safety**. The following **four projects** will do so:

SB 5505 CCTV and Access Control Improvement Phase IV (\$5,630,000.00 New):

The phased replacement and expansion of OYA's CCTV video surveillance system is a critical component to maintaining safety and security protecting the public, reducing crime, and creating safe environments for both youth and staff. Key attributes are the following: Increased safety and security; suicide prevention (as a secondary measure to direct supervision); PREA compliance; supplemental supervision; use of force documentation; critical support of investigations; access control supervision; intrusion and escape detection; and archival storage. The OYA camera system is an integral piece of the PREA mandates and acts as a deterrent, a measure of accountability, and for forensic use in investigations and allegations.

SB 5505 and SB 5506 – Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) Modernization (\$1,685,000.00 New & \$7,700,000.00 Reauthorize): provides funding for the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) modernization project. Oregon's state and local juvenile justice continuum relies on JJIS as its unified core business applications. JJIS is

used by more than 3,000 juvenile justice practitioners across the state. By statute, the state is responsible for stewarding this unified information system.

The software platform JJIS uses to operate is over 20 years old and no longer adequately supported by the developers who created it. If we do not modernize the system, it will likely fail, threatening the ability of juvenile justice professionals to do their jobs. Secretary of State audits of the existing JJIS system have clearly identified risks to critical reporting required by the Legislature, including data integrity, timeliness, and statewide evaluation of juvenile justice effectiveness. If we don't modernize JJIS, at some point these risks will shut down the ability to do the work of juvenile justice at both the state and the county levels. The obsolescence of the existing software affects our work with youth, their families, communities, and victims, and threatens the capacity of Oregon counties and OYA to reduce crime and improve outcomes for underserved populations.

SB 5505 – Renovate and expand the living unit, support areas, and medical/dental clinic at Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility (12,600,000.00 Reauthorize): The two living units, support areas, and medical/dental clinic at this facility have not had a major renovation since they were built in the mid-1990s using an old correctional style designs that includes restrooms that lack the privacy needed for PREA compliance. The remodel resolves a substantial amount of deferred maintenance and ensures the interior spaces align with safety practices and a developmentally based physical environment. The project design is completed and set to go to bid soon.

SB 5505 MacLaren Infirmary and Pharmacy Renovation and Expansion (\$2,735,000.00 New): After the design phase, it was recognized that the initial budget of \$1.8 million estimated in 2019 did not account for post-pandemic construction costs. On average, OYA saw a 39% cost increase for agency capital construction projects. For this project, we also saw increased expenses around additional construction modifications needed to address safety and security concerns that arose as the project was progressing. This request asks for additional funding needed to complete the project.

OYA's proposed projects will also **support youth development**, which is critical if they are to become productive, crime-free Oregonians. These projects are rooted in our developmental approach, which aims to help youth develop their natural talents and skills such as emotional regulation, decision-making, and cooperation. You'll see the following **three projects** do this:

SB 5505—Oak Creek New School and Vocational Education Facility (\$4,000,000.00 Reauthorize): This funding will allow the design process to begin but will not provide funding for construction. Total funding for this project is estimated at \$11,800,000.00. Oak Creek is the only female youth correctional facility OYA owns. This unique project will help to provide the much-needed equity by providing our female youth education and vocation opportunities like the male youth at other OYA sites. The school and vocation spaces will be designed to serve other purposes too, for example: emergency housing, medical and emergency operations. The school and vocational buildings will have environments designed for the special needs of youth housed in close-custody

facilities, treatment-informed spaces for behavior management, self-contained and versatile program spaces, plentiful natural light, and spaces with open and engaging floor plans.

SB 5505 – Renovate and expand the living unit and support areas at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility in Woodburn (\$4,000,000.00 Reauthorize): MacLaren has eight living units on the west side of the campus that were built in the 1960s. Three of the units are 100% complete and two are currently under construction. Along with resolving all deferred maintenance, the projects will make sure interior spaces are aligned with our positive human development standards with a normative, residential character.

SB 5505 – Renovate and expand the living unit and support areas at Camp Riverbend Youth Transitional Facility near La Grande (\$8,800,000.00 Reauthorization): Like our Tillamook facility the living units and support areas at this facility have not had a major renovation since they were built in the mid-1990s using an old correctional style design. The remodel resolves a substantial amount of deferred maintenance and ensures the interior spaces align with safety practices and a developmentally based physical environment. Bidding on this project is complete with construction set to start summer 2025.

And like much of what you're considering, we're seeking funding for projects that will **strengthen OYA's infrastructure**, prolonging usability and serving our staff and youth at all OYA sites (SB 5505 and SB 5506 Capital Improvements All Facilities, \$18,225,000.00, New). The funding is a critical component in our efforts to lower Facility Condition Index (FCI) percentages, helping us maintain safe spaces for our youth and staff.

You'll note that, with the exception of JJIS Modernization, all projects are capital construction or improvement, or deferred maintenance. These projects build, renovate, or maintain secure and safe environments for youth and staff – environments that are also conducive to positive youth development and reformation.

And all projects are planful. Projects align with either our existing (2019) (2019)existing ten-year plan, or will become part of the new ten-year plan for which the Governor has recommended funding. This new plan will reflect significant population trends such as flattening numbers and rising youth acuity. The plan will also evaluate the use of existing space to align with best practices, with consideration for ongoing capital improvement and deferred maintenance needs.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued support of the Oregon Youth Authority.

Sincerely,



Jana McLellan, Interim Director, Oregon Youth Authority