

Hello, my name is Cori Wiessner, Public Works Director for Hood River County. I am responsible for the County's Roads, Fleet, Parks, and Facilities.

Thank you, Co-Chairs, Co-Vice-Chairs and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for the opportunity to submit testimony to support SB5505 to fund the capital construction for the Hood River County Courthouse.

Our Courthouse is currently in a state of disrepair, and keeping a basic level of safety and service for this building is becoming more challenging and costly to the County each year.

We have leaks through the roofs, walls, windows and foundation. To alleviate the leaks from the roof, the County team has spent several weeks to seal all seams in the roof membrane seams, updated flashing, and sealed the parapet walls. During a soft wash of the building, we experienced water leaking in the building through both the windows and the walls. We have additionally worked on caulking the windows.

Additionally, the County team has been spending time upgrading fluorescent bulbs to LED. This seemingly easy task requires several hours to find the correct breaker to perform the work safely. Once identified, many of these needs significant rewiring due to brittle wires to change the bulbs.

The Courthouse HVAC system uses boilers and radiators to heat a portion of the building and is supplemented with other systems to cover the remainder. In 2023, the County rebuilt the boiler. In 2025, the County is working to update the controllers. Both of these systems were at a failure point. Areas not reached by the boilers and supplemented by other systems are nearing the end of their lives or have already failed. We are programming the replacement schedule of these systems in future budget cycles.

In the County's fiscal year 2026 budget, we are including the concrete repair to the Courthouse Exterior, which is currently crumbling.

These are some of the examples of serious challenges the County faces with maintenance to continue basic safety and service of the facility.

We ask for your support to help fund a safe workplace for the 7th District Court and public safety operations in SB5505.