

Testimony in Support of Spalding Industrial Park Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrade - SB 5531

Chair Girod and Nosse, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Spalding Industrial Park Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrade Project. My name is Sean Ward, of Sean Ward Development, Inc. in Grants Pass.

My father and I have been developing this former mill site since its closure. The mill's closure was a significant loss to Grants Pass, impacting approximately 160 workers and their families. However, the park's development has more than offset that loss, at last count providing jobs for over 800 people.

We have completed three phases of industrial subdivision on approximately half(50 ac m/l) of the original site. However, the remaining land is at a standstill due to the existing wastewater infrastructure limitations. Specifically, I have a client now that owns a 17-acre parcel that cannot be subdivided without this crucial sewer upgrade.

This infrastructure deficit is not just a future concern; it's a present obstacle. Currently, we are working to develop a final facility for a locally owned distribution company that is expanding from its two existing locations within the park. This expansion involves constructing nearly 50,000 square feet of office and warehouse space. However, the site's location, just past the gravity sewer service limit, necessitates temporary sewer pumps while also concurrently planning for a future gravity line connection to the proposed new line, adding significant costs and complexity. This is a *now* problem.

Beyond this specific project, another 45 acres of industrially zoned land, crucial for job creation, remain undevelopable due to the lack of adequate sewer service. Job growth in Grants Pass is currently constrained by this infrastructure issue and urgently needs assistance, which this project would provide. We have business in Grants Pass right now that are bursting at the seams of their current locations and desperately need new facilities to grow their business, but there is no place for them

I urge you to approve this vital project. Communities like Grants Pass rely on your support to foster economic growth and create new jobs.

Sincerely,

Sean Ward

Sean Ward Development, Inc.

147 NE Bryce Grants Pass, OR 97526