

May 9, 2025

RE: Support for Clear Lake Road Infrastructure Funding Request

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and Members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee,

My name is Paula Lafferty, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of SnoTemp Cold Storage, a family-owned and operated company based in Eugene. For over 70 years, SnoTemp has provided cold storage and logistics services for Oregon's food and beverage industry, supporting regional farmers, processors, distributors, and retailers. We are proud to be part of the west Eugene business community, where we have deep roots and a strong commitment to local economic vitality.

I am writing today to express my strong support for funding the Clear Lake Industrial Area Infrastructure Project in the upcoming capital construction budget.

As a local employer in west Eugene, I know the potential this area holds for growth, innovation, and job creation. But I also know the realities on the ground: without infrastructure — wastewater, stormwater, utilities, and transportation improvements — we simply can't expand our local industrial capacity in a way that meets today's business needs.

The Clear Lake Industrial Area offers over **600 acres** of industrially zoned land with the potential to support up to **6,000 new jobs** and attract transformational private investment to the region. But without the basic infrastructure to make it development-ready, we are forced to watch opportunity after opportunity slip away — and local businesses that want to stay and grow here are left with few viable options.

From the perspective of a west Eugene business, this investment is not just about attracting new employers — it's about supporting the businesses already here that want to expand and keep operations local. It's about creating a healthy, diversified economy where industrial, agricultural, and service sectors can all thrive side by side.

I understand the committee faces many competing requests and must weigh priorities carefully, especially in today's fiscal environment. But the Clear Lake Infrastructure Project is a smart investment with wide-reaching benefits — not just for big companies, but for the small- and mid-sized local businesses that form the backbone of Oregon's economy.

On behalf of SnoTemp and our employees, I respectfully urge you to prioritize this critical infrastructure funding and help secure a stronger economic future for Eugene, Lane County, and the entire state.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if I can offer additional insights from the perspective of an established west Eugene business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Lafferty". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Paula" and last name "Lafferty" clearly legible.

Paula Lafferty
Chief Executive Officer
SnoTemp Cold Storage