

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 Erik Parrish, and I serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors for Onward Eugene, the strategic economic development partner of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce. Onward Eugene is dedicated to advancing regional prosperity through business recruitment, entrepreneurship support, and workforce development programs that help create economic opportunity and drive innovation.

I am writing today to urge your strong support for funding the Clear Lake Industrial Area Infrastructure Project in the upcoming capital construction budget. **This site represents one of the largest industrial development opportunities in the state of Oregon**, with the potential to reshape the economic future of our local region and help position Oregon as a destination for innovation, manufacturing, and clean technology investment.

As the lead organization working to recruit and grow businesses in our region, Onward Eugene has a clear-eyed understanding of what drives — and what limits — economic development here. We know that Eugene has the skilled workforce, innovative mindset, and business potential needed to attract and support high-impact industries. But we also know that without development-ready land and core infrastructure in place, our ability to attract new businesses, retain growing employers, and support job creation is severely constrained.

I recognize the committee faces many important funding decisions, especially in today's fiscally conservative climate. But the Clear Lake Infrastructure Project is precisely the type of investment that can deliver long-term, wide-reaching benefits, not only for Eugene but for Oregon as a whole.

The Clear Lake Industrial Area represents over **600 acres** of industrially zoned land within Eugene's Urban Growth Boundary and holds the potential to generate up to **6,000 new jobs** and unlock transformational private investment across advanced manufacturing, bioscience, clean technology, and other high-impact industries. One example already on the table is a green manufacturing company with serious interest in nearly **200 acres** at the site — a project that alone could bring upwards of **4,000 jobs** to the region and over **\$1 billion** in private investment, with **average wages ranging from \$90,000 to \$120,000**, targeting talent from local institutions like the University of Oregon and Oregon State University.

However, without the essential infrastructure — wastewater, stormwater, utilities, and transportation access — this land remains inaccessible, and the region risks falling behind peer communities that are ready today to welcome employers and investment.

Infrastructure and land accessibility are among the biggest barriers we face in growing our regional economy. Addressing these challenges is critical to keeping Eugene competitive,

expanding our tax base, and creating the kinds of family-wage jobs that strengthen communities across Lane County.

On behalf of Onward Eugene and our board of directors, I respectfully urge you to prioritize funding for the Clear Lake Industrial Area Infrastructure Project. Together, we can ensure our region is prepared to meet the demands of a changing economy and positioned for long-term success — not only for Eugene and Lane County, but for Oregon's statewide economic strength and competitiveness.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if I can provide additional insights from the perspective of our regional economic development work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erik Parrish, CPA". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "E", "P", and "C" being particularly prominent.

Erik Parrish, CPA

Board Chair
Onward Eugene