



Written Testimony in Support of Capital Funding Request

Submitted by: Margie Pecks-Molitor, Interim CEO

Project: Blue Mountain Hospital Facility Improvements

Location: John Day, Oregon (Grant County)

To: Co-Chair Girod and Nosse, and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Date: May 9, 2025

Subject: Support for the 2025–2027 Capital Funding Request – Blue Mountain Hospital Facility Improvements Project (\$3 Million)

Co-Chair Girod and Nosse, and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

For the record, my name is Margie Pecks-Molitor, and I serve as the Interim CEO at Blue Mountain Hospital, located in Grant County in John Day, Oregon. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of our capital-funding request.

I am respectfully requesting your support for our 2025–2027 Capital Funding Request in the amount of \$3 million to support vital improvements to our healthcare facilities under the Blue Mountain Hospital Facility Improvements Project.

Blue Mountain Hospital District serves as the umbrella organization providing acute care, long-term care, emergency medical services, home visits, and hospice to all of the residents of Grant County. As the only critical access hospital and nursing home in Grant County, Blue Mountain Hospital is essential to ensuring access to quality healthcare in rural eastern Oregon. Our commitment to delivering high-quality patient care and advancing life and safety initiatives is at the heart of this funding request. Upon beginning my term in December 2024, I became aware of several critical infrastructure needs that required immediate attention. Our hospital and nursing home buildings have not seen major upgrades in over 25 years. These improvements are not optional—they are critical to protecting lives, ensuring the safety of our patients, staff, and visitors, and maintaining compliance with current regulatory standards.

The request includes:

- Nursing Home Improvements – \$580,000:
Backup generator installation, attic insulation, kitchen and stove hood replacement, LED lighting upgrades, and bathroom renovations.
- Hospital Building Improvements – \$2.6 million:
Roof replacement, HVAC rooftop systems replacement, flooring replacement, hot water system replacement, and compressor upgrades.

These investments are critical for addressing aging infrastructure and sustaining a care environment that meets current healthcare standards and expectations in our rural region. The present emergency generator at the Care Center is undersized. Our hospital roof is 25 years old, with a life expectancy of only 15 years. We have been patching it for the past thirteen years. Our backup hot water system is non-functional, meaning a loss of the main unit would result in shutting down our surgery and other basic functions until the unit is replaced.

BMHD operates at a substantial loss annually. Even with the generous assistance of our residents via our tax subsidy, we have demonstrated a net loss for several years. This is attributed to our mission of providing needed services to Grant County, including our only long-term care facility, EMS, and hospice services, which the hospital operation subsidizes.

In closing, I respectfully urge your support for the Blue Mountain Hospital Facility Improvements Project and the \$3 million in capital funding it requires. Your investment will ensure that our hospital and nursing home remain safe, efficient, and modern facilities capable of meeting the healthcare needs of our community—today and into the future.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Margie Pecks-Molitor
Interim CEO
Blue Mountain Hospital District
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