



Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178, Salem, Oregon 97301

May 9, 2025

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Nosse, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of The RIVER's request for support from the Oregon State Legislature. With your help, The RIVER stands to become a 340 seat state-of-the-art destination-event venue in the McKenzie Valley. This will replace a church that burned during the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. Desiring to support something more outward focused, they donated 4 acres to The RIVER.

The RIVER mission is not about the facility; it is about the people. The RIVER will facilitate multiple opportunities to support the people in our community, three of those ways are:

**1. Economic Renewal and Long-term Development**

With a sustainable business model through earned revenue The RIVER will draw corporate conferences to the McKenzie region, bolstering local business partners in hospitality, adventure, recreation, sports, and more. Additionally, as a nonprofit, surplus earned revenue will convert to local grants offered by The RIVER to other community organizations.

**2. A Resiliency Hub**

Offering shared resources, training, education, and a place to gather.

**3. Disaster Relief Center**

Built to new Fire Harding standards with generator, commercial kitchen, ADA restrooms and multiple dividable spaces, this 28,000 square-foot facility will shoulder the burden and meet the need for the McKenzie Valley.

We are grateful for consideration from the Oregon State Legislature of this \$2.5M request for the construction of The RIVER venue to leverage a \$2.5M federal request also under consideration in 2025. The prospect of public support has already leveraged \$1,150,00 committed so far in public and private support with another \$650,000 pending, for a total of \$1,800,000.

Sincerely,

Douglas Fairrington  
Executive Director