

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means – Capital Construction Subcommittee
Re: Funding for the Spalding Industrial Park Sewer Infrastructure Project.

Testimony from: Cathleen Bonney, small business owner 02/11/2026

As a small business owner in Josephine County, I know how hard it is to grow without the right infrastructure in place. That's why investing in Spalding Industrial Park in our rural area is so important. Our community and Spalding Park has needed this shot in the arm for decades. And now, this isn't just an idea or a long-term plan—it's ready to move forward. The engineering is finished, and the project is fully shovel-ready. What's needed now is the funding to put the infrastructure in place so businesses can actually build and operate there. Without sites like this being fully prepared, companies simply look elsewhere in Southern Oregon and ignore the economic possibilities in our area.

Rural communities like ours already face challenges competing with larger cities for economic development. Businesses in manufacturing, construction, logistics, and professional services need reliable water, sewer, power, transportation access, and broadband. Those are basic requirements, not extras. Spalding Industrial Park gives us a real opportunity to meet those needs and create family-wage jobs that allow local families to stay and thrive here. Grants Pass, and specifically Spalding Industrial Park is the perfect “hub” connecting the Southern Oregon economy to other regions via the I-5 corridor and 199 to coastal cities.

Bringing \$2 million into Spalding Industrial Park to support the economic development of Josephine County is a smart, responsible investment. The City of Grants Pass is committing significant local matching funds, which shows strong local support and accountability. This funding would remove the barriers that are holding back private investment. New industrial users would strengthen our tax base, reduce pressure on residential property taxes, and support essential services. This is about taking a project that's ready, finishing the job, and letting private businesses do what they do best—invest, hire, and grow right here in Josephine County, and of course building strong connections to the region.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/CATHLEEN BONNEY
Grants Pass, Oregon