

Submitter: Susan Fischer-Maki
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5701
Topic:

Chair and Members of the Subcommittee,

My name is Susan Fischer-Maki. I live in Grants Pass and work across Southern Oregon supporting organizations and public partners to strengthen community systems, build capacity, and improve outcomes. I am writing to strongly support funding for the Spalding Industrial Park Sewer Infrastructure Project.

In rural communities, the biggest constraint on economic development is often not a lack of ambition—it's a lack of basic enabling infrastructure. The Spalding Industrial Park includes industrial-zoned land that cannot be developed without sewer. Until utilities are in place, that land is effectively unusable, and our community loses opportunities to attract manufacturers, logistics, and other traded-sector employers that create family-wage jobs.

This is exactly the kind of strategic capital investment the state should prioritize because it is practical and ready to deliver results. Engineering is complete. The project is shovel-ready. The City is committing significant local matching funds. With state participation, Josephine County can unlock industrial employment land and position Grants Pass to compete for business recruitment and expansion that otherwise goes to communities already equipped with infrastructure.

Just as important, new industrial users strengthen the local tax base and help rebalance the burden that currently falls heavily on homeowners. This investment would grow local revenue capacity over time and reduce pressure on residential property taxpayers—while improving long-term economic resilience in a rural region that needs it.

Please support the \$2 million request for the Spalding Industrial Park Sewer Infrastructure Project. This is a timely, responsible investment that removes a structural barrier and allows private capital, employers, and workforce growth to follow.

Respectfully,
Susan Fischer-Maki
Grants Pass, Oregon