



## *City of Elgin*

*PO Box 128 – 790 S 8<sup>th</sup> Ave - Elgin OR 97827*

*Voice: (541)437-2253 Fax: (541)437-0131*

Greetings Co-Chairs, Committee members,

For the record, my name is James Johnson, and I'm the Mayor of Elgin. This session, Elgin is seeking \$100,000 that will be used as matching funds to purchase a street sweeper, which may cost up to \$150,000. This vehicle will be mandatory to keep our streets clean and prevent clogging and damage to storm sewers. Dirt, debris, and standing rock have started to build up along our streets two years after our last street sweeper broke down beyond the point of repair. This detritus accumulates on the roadway and can cause a couple of environmental issues such as air pollution from dirt and sanding rock. As commuters use the streets when they are dirty, more of the gravel and dirt turn into fine particles and become airborne. Garbage finds its way to the storm drains and can then flow to the Grande Ronde River without a street sweeper maintaining the streets and keeping them clean. These two environmental issues can also become an issue for property owners: dirt in the air can cause buildings to become covered in dirt, and it can wind up inside the homes where people live. Your \$100,000 investment in Elgin now will keep me from having to come back in a few years to ask for a multimillion dollar request for storm sewer repair funds. The City of Elgin thanks you for your time, and we ask that you please remember the Jewel of the Blue Mountains when you make budget decisions this session.

Best regards,

Mayor S. James Johnson