



Senator Mike McLane
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February 12, 2026,

Dear Senator McLane,

The Baker County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests your support for a capital funding request of \$876,000 for the Pine Eagle School District to complete a shovel-ready staff housing project in Halfway, Oregon.

Pine Eagle School District is a Pre-Kindergarten through 12th Grade charter school serving 247 students from Eagle Valley, Pine Valley, and the surrounding communities along the Snake River,—one of the most rural and housing-constrained areas of Baker County. Limited housing availability and high costs have made recruiting and retaining qualified teachers and staff increasingly difficult. In recent years, the district has offered positions to candidates who ultimately declined due to an inability to secure housing.

To address this critical need, Pine Eagle proposes constructing two duplexes on district-owned property to provide stable, affordable housing for staff. Each duplex will include two three-bedroom, two-bath homes with garages, providing approximately 2,000 square feet of living space per unit to accommodate families. The requested funds will be used for building materials and construction services.

This project also delivers strong workforce development benefits. Students enrolled in Pine Eagle's Building Trades program will work alongside local contractors and industry professionals, gaining hands-on experience through instruction, mentoring, internships, and job shadowing. Community partners are contributing substantial in-kind support, including professional services and equipment use.

The total project cost is estimated at \$1,151,000. Pine Eagle School District has already invested approximately \$275,000 in utility installation and site preparation, with additional district and grant funding committed. All land use approvals are complete, bids have been accepted, and

infrastructure—including electrical, water, sewer, fiber, and road construction—is fully in place. This project is ready to begin upon receipt of funding.

Within the next five years, the district anticipates twelve staff retirements, including nine certified educators who are long-term community members and unlikely to relocate. Without additional housing, replacing these positions will further strain the local housing market and threaten staffing stability.

This investment will strengthen rural education, support workforce development, and promote long-term community stability in Baker County. We respectfully ask for your support of Pine Eagle School District's \$876,000 capital funding request.

Thank you for your continued advocacy for rural Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Baker County Board of Commissioners
Baker County, Oregon

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Commission Chair Shane Alderson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Kaseberg", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Michelle Kaseberg

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina Witham", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Christina Witham