



PINE EAGLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express strong support for Pine Eagle School District's staff housing project, which addresses a critical barrier to teacher recruitment, staff retention, and student stability in our rural community.

Pine Eagle is a PK-12 charter school serving 247 students in rural Eastern Baker County, Oregon. Sixty-seven percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Limited and unaffordable housing has made it increasingly difficult to attract and retain teachers and staff. In recent years, multiple employment offers were rescinded due to lack of housing, and the district was unable to fill a fourth-grade teaching position for the same reason. Housing shortages have also forced families to leave the area and prevented others from relocating to the community.

Pine Eagle has a proven history of successfully managing staff housing and currently owns two homes that provide stability for both employees and the district. To address growing need, the district plans to construct two duplexes on district-owned property in a shovel-ready project. These homes will provide four family-sized housing units and help mitigate an anticipated wave of staff retirements in the coming years.

This project will be built in partnership with Pine Eagle's Building Trades program and local contractors, offering students valuable hands-on learning while meeting a critical workforce and community need.

I strongly support this proposal and encourage favorable consideration of Pine Eagle School District's request for funding.

Sincerely,

Cammie deCastro
Principal/Superintendent
Pine Eagle Charter School