



February 12, 2026

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Support for the Elgin Stampeders Community Hall Construction Project

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Oregon Ways and Means Subcommittee,

On behalf of Studio 6 Consulting, I am writing in strong support of state funding for the Elgin Stampeders Community Hall construction project in Elgin, Oregon. As the consultant working closely with the Elgin Stampeders Association on planning, capital development strategy, and an emergency preparedness strategy, I can attest to both the urgency and the long-term value of this investment.

The current community hall, now more than 75 years old, has faithfully served generations of families, students, ranchers, volunteers, and visitors. However, it no longer meets modern safety standards, ADA accessibility requirements, capacity needs, or emergency coordination demands. The building's age and functional limitations restrict its ability to safely serve the community during both large public gatherings and critical emergency situations.

The proposed new Community Hall is not simply a replacement structure—it is a regional resiliency hub, used by FEMA, the US Forest Service and the Oregon National Guard during wildfire emergencies. The facility is designed to serve as an evacuation and coordination site for Elgin and the surrounding rural region. In the event of wildfire, severe winter storms, or other emergencies, local grade school and high school students would evacuate to this facility. For many families in this rural area, it represents the nearest safe gathering place with sufficient space, commercial kitchen capacity, accessible restrooms, and flexible interior areas to support sheltering and emergency response operations.

Beyond emergency preparedness, the new hall will strengthen rural infrastructure, preserve agricultural and cultural heritage, and support year-round economic activity. The Elgin Stampede is one of the region's signature events, drawing visitors and revenue into Union County. The new building will expand event capacity, improve accessibility for residents of all abilities, and provide a safe, modern venue for public meetings, educational programming, youth activities, and intergenerational gatherings.

State investment in this project is an investment in rural resilience, public safety, and economic stability. For communities like Elgin, civic buildings are not optional amenities—they are essential infrastructure. This project reflects thoughtful planning, strong local support, and a clear understanding of the role this facility plays in protecting children, supporting families, and sustaining regional identity.

Studio 6 Consulting respectfully urges the Oregon Legislature and the Ways and Means Committee to prioritize funding for the Elgin Stampeders Community Hall. The need is real, the planning is in place, and the impact will be felt for generations.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to Oregon's rural communities.
Sincerely,

Rick Roach,
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