

February 12, 2026

Testimony in Support of SB 5701

Funding bill for Spalding Industrial Park sewer infrastructure

To whom it may concern, Committee

My name is Victoria Marshall, and I serve as the Ward 2 City Council Member for the City of Grants Pass in Josephine County. I am writing/testifying today in strong support of state participation in the shovel-ready sewer infrastructure project at Spalding Industrial Park. This project addresses a critical barrier: dozens of acres of industrial-zoned land remain undeveloped due to the absence of essential sewer utilities. Engineering is complete, local matching funds are committed, and the site is truly ready for development. Without this infrastructure, the land sits idle, like inventory on a shelf, preventing private investment from flowing into our rural community.

Approving state funding, specifically the \$2 million investment highlighted, would unlock significant economic potential for Josephine County and rural Oregon. It would attract manufacturers, logistics companies, and other employers in the traded sector, creating family-wage jobs our residents desperately need. This expansion would broaden our local property tax base, easing the burden on residential taxpayers who currently shoulder too much of the load. In a time when rural areas struggle to compete for economic development resources, this targeted investment leverages local commitment and brings immediate returns through job growth and fiscal stability.

Rural Oregon communities like ours must speak up and compete for these dollars, or they will go elsewhere. This is not speculative; it's a proven, ready-to-build opportunity that removes structural barriers, allowing private capital to drive growth. I urge the committee to prioritize this responsible investment in our region's future.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting rural infrastructure that builds stronger, more resilient communities.

Sincerely,

Victoria Marshall

City Council Member, Ward 2

City of Grants Pass

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