

Submitter: Melissa Hayes  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or SB5701  
Topic:

As a commercial real estate broker working daily with business owners, manufacturers, and employers in Josephine County, I strongly support funding for the Spalding Industrial Park Sewer Infrastructure Project. The lack of sewer infrastructure has left valuable industrial-zoned land functionally unusable, limiting our ability to recruit and expand family-wage employers. This is a shovel-ready project with engineering complete and meaningful local match already committed — the only missing piece is state participation. Investing \$2 million to unlock industrial land in rural Oregon is not speculative; it is a strategic move to expand our employment base, strengthen our local tax structure, reduce reliance on residential property taxes, and allow private capital to move forward. Rural communities must compete for opportunity, and infrastructure is the foundation that makes economic development possible.