

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

To the Joint Committee on Ways and Means – Capital Construction Subcommittee,

My name is McKenna Bartell, and I am a small business owner and Chamber member in Grants Pass.

I am writing in strong support of funding the Spalding Industrial Park Sewer Infrastructure Project.

As a business owner in Josephine County, I see firsthand how limited infrastructure directly impacts our ability to grow, attract employers, and create sustainable economic opportunity. The Spalding Industrial Park represents dozens of acres of industrial-zoned land that cannot be utilized simply because sewer service is not yet in place. That is potential sitting idle — and rural communities like ours cannot afford to leave opportunity on the shelf.

This project is shovel-ready, engineering is complete, and the City is committing local matching funds. The only missing piece is state participation. A \$2 million investment would unlock industrial employment land, attract manufacturers and traded-sector employers, and create family-wage jobs that our community desperately needs.

Rural communities already face steep challenges competing for economic development. Without infrastructure, we are at an even greater disadvantage. This project removes a structural barrier and allows private investment to follow. It strengthens our local tax base, reduces pressure on residential taxpayers, and brings meaningful economic momentum to Josephine County.

State investment in ready-to-build rural infrastructure is not speculative — it is responsible, strategic, and impactful. Funding this project would send a clear message that Oregon values rural economic vitality and understands that infrastructure is the foundation for growth.

I urge you to support this critical investment in Grants Pass and Josephine County.

Thank you for your consideration and for supporting rural Oregon.

Sincerely,
McKenna Bartell

Grants Pass, Oregon
Business Owner & Chamber Member