



February 5, 2026

Ways & Means Capital Construction Subcommittee:

As legislators representing the City of Medford, we wanted to share out support for the Capital Project Request submitted by Representative Kim Wallan for our region.

Holmes Park \$500,000

The existing restroom facility at Holmes Park in Medford, Oregon is more than 40 years old and no longer meets current standards for accessibility, functionality, or public use. Most notably, the restroom does not comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements, limiting equitable access for individuals with disabilities, seniors, families with strollers, and others who rely on accessible facilities.

Holmes Park serves as an important community resource that supports both active and passive recreation, including walking, tennis and pickleball, basketball, picnicking, and neighborhood gatherings. However, the condition and outdated design of the restroom facility reduce the park's overall usability and discourage extended visits.

Replacement of the restroom with a modern, ADA-compliant facility would significantly contribute to revitalizing Holmes Park. Improved restroom access would enhance user comfort, increase park utilization, and better support recreational activities and community use. In addition, a new facility would address long-term maintenance challenges associated with aging infrastructure while improving public health and safety.

Recent analysis of cell phone location data indicates that Holmes Park experiences consistent visitation of 211,000 throughout the year, with increased use during warmer months and peak activity occurring during afternoons and weekends. This data demonstrates that the park functions as a well-used neighborhood and community destination. However, the lack of modern restroom facilities limits the ability of visitors to remain in the park for longer durations, particularly for families, older adults, and individuals with accessibility needs.

Water Treatment Use of Biogas \$350,000

The City of Medford operates the Regional Water Reclamation Facility (RWRF) in White City, Oregon. The facility processes and treats wastewater for a service area that includes about 160,000 people, and covers much of the Rogue Valley. As part of the treatment process, excess solid waste from the wastewater is captured and sent to anaerobic digesters, where bacteria break down the solid waste and produce a methane rich gas from wastewater treatment as a by-product. The RWRF captures this gas and uses it to fuel a 750kW co-generation plant to produce electricity and heat which is used on-site to support the needs of the facility. The RWRF operates 24/7 year-round, but there are periods where the co-generation capability is not available due to maintenance or other reasons. During these periods, the

gas cannot be put to beneficial use, and is simply burned off in open flares. Additionally, the RWRF still needs to generate heat for the treatment process to continue when co-generation is not available, which it currently provides using gas boilers and fossil fuels from the local gas utility.

The proposed project will build piping from the digesters directly to the plant boilers, and make modifications to the boilers to allow them to use the waste gas as a fuel. This will allow waste gas to flow directly to the boilers and be used to generate heat during times that co-generation is not available. This improvement will achieve several objectives:

- It will allow the RWRF to avoid wasting the potential energy in the waste gas by eliminating the need to flare the gas.
- It will significantly reduce the cost of buying gas from the utility, a cost savings that will be passed on to customers through wastewater treatment rates. Cost savings is projected at over \$20,000 per year.
- It will substitute renewable gas for fossil fuel gas.
- It will achieve a reduction of overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your consideration of these projects,



Sen. Jeff Golden



Rep. Emily McIntire