



February 2, 2026

Capital Construction Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse,

I am the Economic Development Director for Clatsop County; CEDR (Clatsop Economic Development Resources) and an Associate Vice-President of the Clatsop Community College Center for Business, Community and Professional Development, which includes our award-winning SBDC (Small Business Development Center)

I am writing to express my support of Casa Mariposa, a request to the sub-committee to help the community in Astoria purchase and repurpose an old church, which would help stabilize the service community on the North Coast.

Consejo Hispano serves over 15,000 people from our communities in a four-county region, including Clatsop County. We work together to focus on economic empowerment for youth and adults through our signature Clatsop WORKS summer paid internship program for high school and college students and serving the Latino community through our Small Business Development Center, where Consejo Hispano has been collaborative with our team in getting the word out to the free and confidential advising services we provide. In 2024 we served 57 Latino clients out of our total clients served of 258, or 22% of clients served in this very important and fast-growing segment of our total population here.

We are also side by side in the community chamber and downtown organization meetings throughout the county on a weekly basis and are building programs together to support our rural business entrepreneurs.

On a personal note, my wife Karen and I participated this holiday season in contributing dollars to support gifts for Latinx families, and attended a joyous and packed event at Casa Mariposa and were so inspired by the spirit, fellowship, inclusiveness, creativity, and amazing food in this building!

I appreciate your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Leahy
Executive Director CEDR & AVP Clatsop Community College
kleahy@clatsopcc.edu
direct; 503-338-2342