

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

February 13, 2026

Testimony in Support of SB 5701

Funding bill for Spalding Industrial Park sewer infrastructure & Hillcrest Fire Station (Station 7) Replacement

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the JWM Subcommittee On Capital Construction:
I write to you, not only as a City Councilor for Grants Pass in Ward 3 City in Josephine County, but also as a member of the community who works in the city and is impacted directly by the economic struggles our city faces.

I strongly support state participation in this Fully Designed and Ready for Construction sewer infrastructure project at Spalding Industrial Park. 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 ready for development. Without infrastructure, the land sits idle, preventing private investment from flowing into our rural community.

Approving the \$2 million investment highlighted would unlock significant economic potential for Josephine County and rural Oregon. It would draw manufacturers, logistics companies, and other employers in the trade sector, creating family-wage jobs our residents very desperately need. This development would broaden our local property tax base, easing the burden on residential taxpayers. This targeted investment leverages local commitment and brings immediate returns through job growth and fiscal stability. Josephine County is not asking for special treatment, just a reasonable economic opportunity.

Additionally, I write in strong support of the City of Grants Pass request for a one-time capital appropriation of \$9,998,816 to replace Hillcrest Fire Station 7, constructed in 1972.

Planning, site evaluation, cost modeling, and team selection are complete. The request is structured as a single, all-inclusive appropriation covering demolition, site work, utilities, vertical construction, emergency power, communications, life-safety systems, equipment, contingencies, and owner-side costs. This investment Protects life and property, strengthens regional wildfire and disaster response capacity, Supports coordinated mutual aid across Southern Oregon and Ensures reliable emergency operations during major incidents.

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