

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

Dear Capital Construction Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse and Members of the Subcommittee,

I'm writing as your constituent to request your support for the Casa Mariposa project. 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.

This project is vital for our community but also personally important to me. When my Puerto Rican grandmother moved to the mainland with her husband (an officer in the Navy) in the 1950s, discrimination convinced her that survival meant erasing our culture. She never taught us Spanish. She never shared her traditions; the meals her family ate at special holidays or the songs they would sing to celebrate. When she passed away, our heritage was lost with her. This loss is irreversible for my family, but Casa Mariposa can prevent the cycle from continuing for others.

Consejo Hispano has already proven their value. Their celebrations unite our community across backgrounds. Their economic programs help families build self-sufficiency. Casa Mariposa will give them a permanent home to expand this work.

This isn't just about cultural preservation, it's also about smart governance:

Stronger Democracy: Improving citizenship pathways and voter access increases civic participation among underrepresented constituents.

Economic Growth: Job training, financial literacy, and support for small business development strengthen our local economy and tax base.

Public Health: Bilingual healthcare navigation and culturally responsive services improve health outcomes and reduce emergency care costs.

Education: Bilingual programming supports academic achievement for English language learners, improving graduation rates.

Latino and Latina residents are your constituents, too. They own businesses, pay taxes, serve on school boards, and contribute daily to our community. Casa Mariposa ensures they have equitable access to the services and opportunities that help all

residents thrive.

Consejo Hispano has the expertise and track record. Casa Mariposa provides the infrastructure to provide these services. This is a high-return investment in a proven organization serving a growing population.

I respectfully request your support and am happy to provide additional information.

Jess Sollaccio
Commissioner, City of Warrenton