



Oregon Public Broadcasting

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Jonathan Newsome

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February 2, 2026

Tim Wallender

President, Board of Directors
Blue Mountain Translator District
2307 Adams Ave. La Grande, OR 97850

Dear Mr. Wallender,

I am writing in strong support of your request for public funding to replace the privately owned power line serving the communications facilities on Mt. Fanny. This line is essential to Oregon Public Broadcasting's ability to deliver radio and television service across Eastern Oregon.

OPB depends on uninterrupted power at Mt. Fanny to reach La Grande, Baker City, the Wallowa Valley, and communities extending east to Ontario. Without this infrastructure, OPB would be unable to provide Oregonians in the region with reliable news, information, and public service programming.

Mt. Fanny is also a critical link in Oregon's Emergency Alert System. OPB originates and relays local and state EAS messages, and the site enables FEMA and Presidential (POTUS PEP) alerts to reach rural and isolated communities that may have no alternative source of immediate emergency information.

The aging private power line poses a clear and significant risk to the continuity of these public safety and public service functions. Replacing it with resilient, publicly supported infrastructure is not only justified but critical for maintaining communications reliability, safeguarding emergency readiness, and ensuring that OPB and the Blue Mountain Translator District can continue serving the region without interruption.

We deeply appreciate your leadership in addressing this pressing infrastructure need. OPB strongly supports your efforts in securing the necessary funding and partnership to complete this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Newsome'.

Jonathan Newsome

Chief Technology Officer & VP of Technology
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