

February, 13<sup>th</sup> 2026

To: Joint Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Hello,

My name is Hilary Levine, JD, MSW. I live in Brownsmead Oregon – in Clatsop County. I have had the privilege of working with Consejo Hispano as a community partner when I worked at our local community based- domestic and sexual violence program as well as in the role of volunteer.

Consejo Hispano is an integral part of the social services and community network in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties. They provide essential services such as health and wellness programs, workforce development, and tax preparation services to the Latinx community – or anyone who walks through their doors. Consejo's staff members are a force to be reckoned with – as a social worker who has worked in our country I am blown away at their capacity to support and provide resources to each person who comes to them. If they don't already have a way to provide a support to a community member they will find a program or individual who can. If no support is available and they will create a new program to address that specific need.

Consejo Hispano recently purchased a historic church building in our community and converted it into their office spaces and community center. If you visit in our area I encourage you to come see how beautiful it is inside with brightly painted walls and an amazing after-school program space under the stained-glass windows. Consejo Hispano not only houses their programs in this space, but they also share space with The Chinook Tribe as well as partner with the county to provide a warming center when temperatures are dangerously low for those who are unhoused. On top of supporting social service programs the building acts as a meeting place for the Latinx community as well as the community at large. For instance, this winter, Consejo gathered and fed Mole and other chocolate-based treats to all those who supported their holiday drive to celebrate providing gifts to 400 children across Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook counties. I hope you can see what an important space this is to the community – at large and to our Latinx community members.

The only issue with purchasing this building is that each dollar spent on the mortgage is a dollar that does not go to the pivotal services that Consejo Hispano provides our community. Consejo raised significant funds themselves and received the support of local city governments to make the purchase of this space a reality. Having to fundraise the rest from foundations will take significant staff time when they could be fundraising for funds to support their work.

I ask that you please award Consejo 2.25 million from the Capitol Construction funds to support them in fully purchasing their building. I know you have many requests and limited funds but in the grand scheme of things 2.25million is a small amount when it comes to a capitol construction request. Further, the space is not “shovel ready” it is already operating and as such the support to the community is immediate. The Oregon coast is historically underserved and underfunded for our community needs. This money will be an investment in vital infrastructure to enrich our community when cuts to services and funding across the state and country will affect us drastically. I know you can’t stop all of the cuts but you do have the ability to make this grant of funds to sur- up future community support for three counties across the Oregon Coast.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary Ann Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'H' and 'A'.

Hilary Ann Levine , JD, MSW