

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

February 14, 2026

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Capital Construction Subcommittee

RE: SB 5701 Letter of Support for Forest Grove Police Facility Capital Funding Request (2025–27 Biennium)

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Girod, Representative Nosse and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the 2025–27 Capital Funding Request on behalf of the City of Forest Grove for the Forest Grove Police Facility. This project represents a critical investment in public safety, community well-being, and long-overdue infrastructure modernization for the residents of Forest Grove and Senate District 15.

The need for a new police facility in Forest Grove is both urgent and well-documented. The city's current police building was constructed in 1977, nearly five decades ago when the population was a fraction of what it is today. The city has more than doubled in size since then, placing extraordinary strain on a facility that was never designed to serve a community of this scale. A comprehensive Building Needs Assessment conducted in 2016 identified 34 major deficiencies in the existing structure, ranging from seismic non-compliance to inadequate evidence storage, insufficient victim interview space, and barriers to ADA accessibility. These are not minor inconveniences; they are serious shortcomings that compromise the safety of officers, the integrity of criminal investigations, and the dignity of the community members the department serves.

The proposed new facility directly addresses each of these deficiencies. It will be built to current seismic safety standards, ensuring resilience in an emergency. It will feature climate-controlled evidence storage to protect the integrity of criminal cases, dedicated victim interview rooms to support trauma-informed policing, expanded holding areas to ensure proper separation of adult and juvenile offenders, full ADA compliance, and efficient workspaces designed for a modern law enforcement operation. The building will be located on city-owned land at the corner of 19th Avenue and Birch Street, a central location that supports balanced emergency response times and convenient public access, adjacent to other existing municipal buildings.

Importantly, this project is shovel ready. The City of Forest Grove has completed a final design and conducted a value engineering exercise in 2025 that reduced the projected cost by approximately \$2 million, demonstrating responsible stewardship of public resources.

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Construction is projected to begin June 1, 2027, with an estimated completion date of September 1, 2028. The amount requested in state bond funds is **\$3 million** with the total project cost estimated at \$29.5 million, paid by City of Forest Grove General Fund and a citywide bond measure on the 2026 ballot.

State capital funding through the 2025–27 biennium would be transformative for this project and for the City of Forest Grove. The city has done the planning work, secured the land, and completed the design. What remains is the financial partnership that will allow construction to move forward. I respectfully urge the Subcommittee to give this request its full and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman
Senate District 15