

Testimony: State Capital Funding for Grants Pass Infrastructure Projects

Co-Chair Nosse and Co-chair-Girod, members of the Committee. For the record my name is Seth Benham, Grants Pass City Councilor and I am testifying on behalf of the City of Grants Pass for two projects that matter a lot to our community. We're asking for \$2 million for the Spalding Industrial Park Sewer Project, and \$10 million for a new Fire Station.

The \$2 million for the industrial park is vital for growth. We have dozens of acres of land that is already zoned for industrial use, but right now, it's currently sitting empty because we don't have the sewer infrastructure to support it.

We have businesses who want to develop the land and either open a new business, expand their current operations, or relocate. The City is putting up significant local funds and we're not asking the state to do this alone. We just need \$2 million to make it happen. Once that infrastructure is in place, that land becomes productive.

The Hillcrest Fire Station was constructed in 1972 and is the City's oldest fire station. It is now functionally obsolete and increasingly unreliable as a critical public safety infrastructure. Our firefighters deserve to work in a facility that actually functions. And frankly, our community deserves first responders who aren't dealing with a broken building.

This station also houses police operations, SWAT, and the 911 Continuity of Operations Center which affects the entire region's ability to respond to emergencies.

We're asking for \$10 million to build a new station. We've looked at how other communities have done this successfully. Medford used a design-build model that's proven to work, it saves us over \$500,000, cuts design fees by roughly 50%, and shortens the delivery timeline by seven months compared to traditional approaches. We're not reinventing the wheel. We're using what works.

Both of these projects are about doing what we're supposed to do as elected officials and that's making sure our infrastructure keeps pace with what our community needs. One unlocks economic opportunity. The other protects public safety. Both are essential. We hope you'll support them. Thank you.

- Seth Benham, Grants Pass City Councilor