



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT  
Office of the State Court Administrator

November 24, 2014  
**(SENT BY EMAIL AND US MAIL)**

The Honorable Mike Ahern  
The Honorable Wayne Fording  
The Honorable John Hatfield  
Jefferson County Commissioners  
66 SE D Street  
Madras, OR 97741

Re: Jefferson County Courthouse Replacement Project Application

Dear Commissioners:

I am pleased to inform you that Chief Justice Balmer has approved Jefferson County's application to utilize state matching funds to construct a new courthouse. The Chief Justice reviewed the county's application and other plans and has determined that the county has demonstrated, as required by law, that:

- The current courthouse facility has significant structural defects that present threats to human health and safety.
- Replacing the courthouse, by constructing a new building, is more cost-effective than remodeling or repairing the existing courthouse.
- The planned facility provides opportunity for colocation of the court with other state offices.

We appreciate the work and expense that the county has invested to create plans for a suitable and sufficient courthouse in Jefferson County, one that includes best practices for the efficient organization and layout of courthouse functions, attention to security needs, and includes future expansion capabilities in the design.

It has been a pleasure to work with county staff and contractors who have kept the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) involved and well informed. We also appreciate the level of collaboration with the Trial Court Administrator and the Circuit Court Presiding Judge throughout this process.

We believe this project has been carefully and thoughtfully planned to meet the needs and expectations of the court, and to comply with legal requirements and safeguard the use of state and county funds. As planned, this facility will provide a safe and secure environment for the citizens of Jefferson County wherein the court can protect the rights of individuals, preserve community welfare, and inspire public confidence.

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As you know, the state Department of Administrative Services (DAS) also must approve this project before the state can sell its bonds, and OJD will continue to work with you and DAS to obtain that approval. Similarly, the Judicial Department will be presenting its approval of this project to the legislative Emergency Board next month as part of our request to expend state and county funds for this project, and have provided details about the hearing to your county administrator Mr. Rasmussen.

We look forward to continuing our work with you. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David T. Moon", written over a large, light-colored oval shape.

David T. Moon  
Oregon Judicial Department  
Director, Business and Fiscal Services Division

DM:PL:ma/14bDM003ma

ec: Chief Justice Thomas A. Balmer  
State Court Administrator Kingsley W. Click  
Presiding Judge Daniel J. Ahern  
Trial Court Administrator Amy Bonkosky  
Phil Lemman, OJD  
Steve Bender, LFO  
Jean Gabriel, DAS  
Michelle Lisper, DAS  
Jeff Rasmussen, Jefferson County Administrator