



CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF
OREGON
 FOR THE 2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 LANE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
 125 E. 8th Ave.
 Eugene, OR 97401-2926



LANE COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY
 125 E. 8th Ave. #400
 Eugene, OR 97401



CITY OF EUGENE
 125 E. 8th Ave., 2nd floor
 Eugene, Oregon 97401



LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE
 125 E 8th Ave.
 Eugene, OR 97401

June 18, 2014

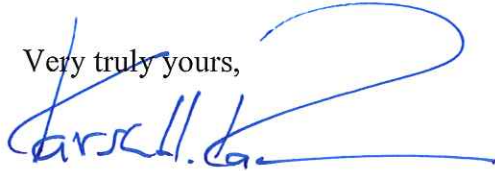
We, the undersigned, recognize that the effort to plan and construct a public building requires strong intergovernmental support to ensure success. To this end, the Lane County Circuit Court, the Lane County District Attorney's Office, the Lane County Sheriff's Office, and the City of Eugene join in this letter of support for the Lane County Board of Commissioner's application for state bond matching funds for the purpose of planning and design of a future courthouse. We see a new courthouse as an opportunity to broaden community access to the seat of justice for our County and improve the civic landscape of downtown Eugene by working together toward a shared vision.

For many years, the County has explored options to address growing issues with the aging Courthouse. The Lane County Courthouse was designed and constructed in 1957-1958. The Courthouse has served as the County's primary justice center since that time, housing the State Circuit Court, the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office. Over recent years, the condition of the building has steadily deteriorated. Independent studies have identified major deficiencies including security, accessibility, electrical and mechanical systems, seismic, and hazardous materials. Additionally, the aging building does not provide the data system, electricity, or space necessary to perform modern court functions, while annual costs to operate the building have risen steeply over time.

In 2009, we participated in a local stakeholder forum to review the results of the State of Oregon Court Facilities Assessment. In our response to the Assessment, we conclude that the high cost of comprehensively upgrading the existing courthouse relative to the lifespan of such an upgrade, makes construction of a new facility the preferred solution. The establishment of the Oregon Courthouse Construction Improvement Fund (OCCCIF), in combination with emerging local attention to the condition of the Courthouse, provides an opportunity to evaluate how we locate government buildings and work to continue downtown revitalization. A new seat of justice will provide a significantly improved venue for the citizens of Lane County to obtain speedy and fair resolution of the serious matters they bring before the court and will serve as a prominent landmark in Eugene's civic center.

Our organizations share the goal of improving access to the seat of justice for Lane County and other local government offices. The Courthouse planning effort is one of many steps we are taking toward realizing that goal. We fully support the Lane County Board of Commissioners in their effort to seek funding for the purpose of planning and designing a new Lane County Courthouse.

Very truly yours,



Karsten H. Rasmussen
Presiding Judge



Alex Gardner
Lane County District Attorney



Kitty Piercy
Mayor of Eugene



Thomas Turner
Lane County Sheriff