

**AOC SUPPORTS HOUSE BILL 5030,  
LOTTERY BONDING FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) strongly supports HB5030, which authorizes the issuance of Lottery Bonds for economic development purposes. AOC is particularly supportive of the following aspects of the bill.

Business Oregon

- Special Public Works Fund \$28M
- Regional Infrastructure Fund (Regional Solutions) \$14M
- OR Infrastructure Opportunity Program \$10M
- Brownfields Redevelopment Fund \$ 7M

Business Oregon has worked closely with Oregon’s counties in encouraging economic development throughout the state. AOC’s members are grateful for the work Business Oregon accomplishes in expanding existing businesses, nurturing innovation and startups, recruiting traded-sector employers in key industries, and building infrastructure for communities to grow.

AOC is especially pleased with Business Oregon’s focus on improving the rural economies in our state. AOC’s members, including those from urban counties, understand that all areas of our state must succeed in order for Oregon to thrive. The creation of the Infrastructure Opportunity Program will contribute to the completion of projects like the Juntura Cut Off, which could keep successful businesses from moving out of state. The \$28 million Special Public Works Fund will provide the assistance small communities need to upgrade sewer, water, and levy systems. Recapitalization of the nearly empty Brownfields Development Fund will allow for the cleanup of some of the 13,000 brownfields sites, turning polluted properties into productive ones.

AOC is extremely supportive of the bonding request for Regional Solutions. Every area of the state has benefitted greatly from the work of Regional Solutions. Whether cutting through red tape or making financial investments in community priorities, Regional Solutions staff and advisory committees have made many positive impacts in Oregon’s counties. The \$14 million for priority infrastructure projects will enable this important and beneficial work to continue.

Oregon Department of Transportation

- Multimodal Transportation Fund (ConnectOR VI) \$58.6M

ODOT has been a terrific partner with Oregon’s counties and cities as joint stewards of the state’s integrated transportation system. AOC appreciates the spirit of cooperation and collaboration with which ODOT approaches our difficult task. The Multimodal

Transportation Fund, better known as Connect Oregon, has been an extremely successful program providing grants and loans to non-highway transportation projects that promote economic development in Oregon. Acknowledging that the need for transportation investment is enormous, we look forward to working with our partners to identify worthy projects for ConnectOR VI funding.

Oregon Community & Housing Services

- Affordable Housing Finance Fund \$15M

There is a housing crisis in every corner of our state and every community in between. The lack of low income, affordable, and/or workforce housing impacts every county in Oregon. When coupled with the \$85M request for general obligation bonds, these funds will enable communities to address housing issues and help families in need.

Water Resources Department

- Water Supply Development Account \$ 6.25M
- Water Conservation, Reuse & Storage Fund \$ 2M
- Water Resources Department Fund \$11.25M

In light of the recurring drought in the west, it is imperative that Oregon make a concerted investment in water resources. Our neighbors in Washington and California have invested extraordinary sums of public funding toward water supply planning and development to address their water challenges. Investing today in these important programs will ensure future generations have adequate water supplies to support healthy communities, thriving industries, and healthy ecosystems.

All of these programs will spur much needed economic development throughout our state. Although the tally of bonds identified here (\$152+M) may seem large, the need for these programs far exceeds that amount. AOC members realize there is a limited amount of bonding capacity and greatly appreciate your consideration of these critical programs.

Please contact Mary Stern at [mstern@ocweb.org](mailto:mstern@ocweb.org) for more information about AOC or this issue.