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May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Representative Val Hoyle Chairperson, Joint Committee On Ways and Means - Sub Committee On Capital Construction

RE: Funding for Regional Solutions

Dear Representative Hoyle & Committee,

The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce urges the Joint Committee On Ways and Means - Sub Committee On Capital Construction to recommend the full funding requested by Regional Solutions for capital construction projects in our region.

Regional Solutions has brought together rural communities, government agencies, and local governments to assess potential barriers to economic growth, and through these teams address the priority issues facing our region.

This process has been positive and effective, and has given voice to rural parts of the State that have felt disaffected and disconnected for years. The discussions have been fruitful and needs have been identified. The next step is to bring resources that address the problems. Sometimes these resources are a phone call or letter requesting help with bureaucratic red tape, and sometimes it is real dollars for infrastructure, or equipment, or technical assistance.

Regional Solutions dollars have been put to excellent use in our region to address educational access in rural communities, and air quality problems that can restrict economic growth and contribute to poor health.

The Regional Solutions request for funding in the current budget will extend this good work and help our region recover from the economic devastation rural Oregon faced in the recent recession. While metro Oregon, and America, is on the path to economic recovery, rural Oregon is not. If we want to rebuild property values and put more people to work across the rural portions of the State

"The Klamath County Chamber of Commerce is committed to Klamath County by advancing its economic vitality and quality of life through the education, promotion and networking of our members"

these kinds of investments are important, and can be leveraged effectively with local investments of time and money.

Please support the funding request and keep our community on the road to recovery.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charles "Chip" Massie

Executive Director, Klamath County Chamber of Commerce

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