



March 16, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Public Safety
The Honorable Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Duane Stark, Co-Chair
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of state bonding for Lane County Courthouse redevelopment

Dear Senator Winters and Representative Stark;

I thank you for taking the time to speak with Lane County Commissioner Faye Stewart and I on Monday, March 13th in regard to our request to support the inclusion of the Lane County Courthouse project within the 2017 Legislative Assembly bond allocation for the Oregon Courthouse Capital Construction and Improvement Fund.

As I mentioned in our meetings, Eugene's vision for a new city hall, has always been centered on maximizing community benefit. We believe that Lane County's efforts to build a new Courthouse and support facilities, fits with our collective vision for a new and vibrant civic heart of our community. Although there is a current design, construction plan, and funding for a new city hall at our current location, because of the synergy for this project, we have put that effort on hold. As the materials we shared with you show, not only did we put our City Hall project on hold, we are working to move to an entirely different site. Eugene is committed to Lane County's success.

Over the past five years, approximately \$20 million in public funding has leveraged additional private investment of over \$300 million in Eugene's downtown. This has resulted in the development of 618 new housing units, bringing 2,000 new residents downtown, with over 25 new restaurants and retail establishments opening up during this period. Just a month ago, we received the initial report from our nationally recognized consultants, Project for Public Spaces, regarding strategies and approaches to increase the benefit and connectivity of our public spaces in Downtown. Later this spring, we will finalize decisions on which projects to move forward, and implement this vision utilizing local urban renewal funds.

The vision of a civic heart of Eugene is predicated upon accessible and connected government. Along our 'great street' of Eighth Avenue will sit the US Federal Courthouse, the Eugene City Hall, the Lane County Public Service Building, and the Lane County Courthouse. As you can see, a great deal is happening in downtown Eugene, transforming our urban core to meet the civic and commercial needs of our community for the next 100 years. We are excited to host the world in

2021 and showcase the investments and improvements, such as our new Downtown High Speed Fiber Network (which supported us becoming a Mozilla Gigabit City) that our community is proud of.

Last fall, we jointly initiated a collaborative process between the City, County and Court that culminated with action by both the Board of Commissioners and the City Council to direct staff to negotiate a purchase/sale agreement for the two locations. Our target date for contract execution is early June. This current opportunity delivers a 'win-win-win' for Lane County-by securing an ideal site, the City-using downtown property to highest best use and siting the new city hall on an appropriately scaled parcel, and for Lane County Farmers Market-allowing for a permanent year-round downtown home on a re-established legacy park block.

I ask you to support Lane County's request for \$5M in Article XI-Q bonding authority for the next phase of the Lane County Courthouse replacement project. The project is supported by the Chief Justice, the Board of County Commissioners, the Eugene City Council, and the entire Lane County Delegation. We are committed to the success of this project as a cornerstone of a livable and safe community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucy Vinis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Lucy Vinis