



CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON

FOR THE 2nd JUDICIAL DISTRICT
LANE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
125 E. 8TH AVENUE
EUGENE, OREGON 97401-2926

KARSTEN H. RASMUSSEN
PRESIDING JUDGE

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March 15, 2017

Senator Jackie Winters
900 Court St. NE S-301
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Duane Stark
900 Court St. NE H-372
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Bonding Authority for Lane County Courthouse

Dear Representative Stark, Senator Winters and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety:

I write today in support of Lane County's request for bond authority for the Lane County Courthouse replacement project in the 2017-2019 Legislative session.

It has been a great privilege to work closely with the Lane County Commissioners and staff on the Lane County courthouse replacement project. The County began its commitment to this project by contracting with the National Center for State Courts to determine the future space needs of the court. This important study provides the County an evidence-based evaluation of future need, and is a critical step for courthouse replacement projects.

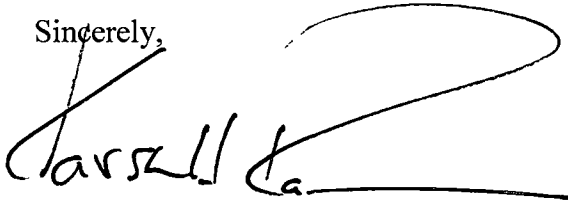
Following the NCSC needs study, the Lane County court house replacement project was recommended for priority by the Association of Oregon Counties and subsequently was included in the Chief Justice's 2016 priorities. The County's recent work with the City of Eugene to envision the future of downtown Eugene's government buildings was a fast-paced and open process with the goal of ensuring that location of government buildings improves the Eugene downtown for the entire community.

Finally, I emphasize that a great strength of the Lane County courthouse replacement project is the vitality of the County's partnership with the court. Lane County has been open and transparent in their communication with the court. The court continues to dedicate staff and time resources to the project, and we support the Commissioners recommendation to pursue purchase

of the former Eugene City Hall site for the courthouse location. The County's continuous and ongoing conversation with me and court administration regarding all aspects of the project's management demonstrates the high level of partnership commitment necessary for success.

Lane County is in a sound position to make this request as their intensive and substantial work allows them to be ready for opportunities that arise, while remaining conservative and realistic about funding amounts that can be matched locally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karsten H. Rasmussen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Karsten H. Rasmussen
Presiding Judge

KHR/mkp

Cc: Lane County Board of Commissioners
Steve Mokrohisky, Lane County Administrator
Thomas Balmer, Chief Justice
Phillip Lemman, Legislative Communication Manager