



Central Oregon Cities Organization

Bend, Culver, La Pine, Madras, Maupin
Metolius, Prineville, Redmond, Sisters

April 17, 2017

Ways and Means Committee
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street / State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson and Gomberg, and Committee Members:

Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO) is writing in support of the Regional Solutions budget request FY 2017-2019 for \$11M of lottery bond proceeds, to support regional priority economic and community development projects.

We rely on the collaborative efforts of the Regional Solutions Team and Business Oregon as a key partner in economic development. The Regional Solutions Team also provides one stop access to state resources that provides valuable information, and can aid in removing many barriers or streamlining processes that makes development in Oregon more competitive and efficient. The cross fertilization we see among the Regional Solutions Team members reflects the positive return the State expected with the establishment of these groups. Many communities in Central Oregon have benefited from the positive interaction.

In summary, we value the partnership that we have developed with the Regional Solutions Team and with Business Oregon. Since established, they have already provided exceptional assistance in countless accomplishments in our region that is essential to continued success going forward. We strongly support the proposed Regional Solutions budget request for 2017-2019.

Sincerely,

Royce Embanks, Jr., Chair
Central Oregon Cities Organization

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