



April 18, 2017

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for your service to our fair state.

The funding generated through HB 5025 and SB 5530 would be very valuable for our City of Hood River. We work closely with the Governor's Regional Solutions staff to identify and address economic development issues in our community. In our case, the number one issue for the past several years has been housing that our local workforce can afford. We are moving ahead with a number of multi-party projects to build some higher density housing; in many cases, the planning staff capacity and transportation analysis is a heavy burden on small cities like ours. Funding of this type would enable us to scale up intermittently to accomplish the work needed. As an example, we have completed a BLI (Building Lands Inventory) and TGM study with the support of State funding. These big picture looks are vital to mapping our future, but are beyond the scope of our day-to-day planning staff of 2.8 FTE.

Thank you for considering supporting these two bills.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "P. Blackburn", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Blackburn
Mayor of Hood River