



April 18, 2017

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

I would like to express my support for the Governor's Regional Solutions Teams (RST) and for the proposed \$11 million for the Regional Infrastructure Fund to fund regional priority projects.

Regional Solutions excels at streamlining regulations and coordinating financial and technical assistance resources on important economic and community development projects. In Eastern Oregon, Regional Solutions has streamlined permitting for biomass energy generation, coordinated resources to assist with natural disaster recovery including wild fires and extreme winter events, assisted with rural workforce housing development and industrial infrastructure extensions, and played a pivotal role in efforts to expand irrigation opportunities in the Umatilla Basin. Through the efforts of Regional Solutions hundreds of jobs have been created and millions of dollars have been leverage for priority community supported projects.

One of the strengths of Regional Solutions is reliance on Advisory Committees comprised of local business, government, and philanthropic leaders to identify economic and community development priorities and help guide the work of Regional Solutions Team members. These groups are well suited to identify priority projects that provide maximum benefits from state investments and to guarantee that state investments will leverage significant additional investments.

As a farmer and Advisory Committee member I have seen the benefits of Regional Solutions for Eastern Oregon and believe this is the way government should operate. Please continue your support for Regional Solutions including funding the Regional Infrastructure Fund.

Sincerely,

Bob Levy
Windy River