

May 12, 2017

Re: SB 5505 – Clackamas County Courthouse Replacement Project

Co-Chairs Devlin and Nathanson,

We write today as a coalition of public safety officials, policymakers, and community members in Clackamas County to voice our full support for the Clackamas County Courthouse replacement project. Improving public safety happens across many forums, but the local courthouse represents a common ground where our work joins together to benefit our communities. As individuals, we represent the wide variety of perspectives present in our county, and we often see public safety issues differently. But in this we all agree – replacing the aging Clackamas County Courthouse is an urgent priority.

Built in 1936, the Clackamas County Courthouse has become too small and unsafe to meet the needs of our fast growing county. Cases are being significantly delayed, which negatively impacts the lives of people who engage with the county court system. The lack of appropriate space also creates openings for improper interactions between jurors, witnesses, defendants, and attorneys. In addition, the building is not seismically sound and its current site along the Willamette River is susceptible to liquefaction in the event of a large earthquake. By building a new courthouse near other county services, we can improve safety, efficiency, accessibility, and fairness for everyone who uses the courthouse, and for everyone who lives, works, or recreates in Clackamas County.

Clackamas County is ready, willing, and able to undertake the process of rebuilding its courthouse. We believe that doing so will be of great benefit to our county and the state, and we hope you will give this project close consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Bernard, Chair  
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners




Paul Savas, Commissioner  
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners



Martha Schrader, Commissioner  
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners



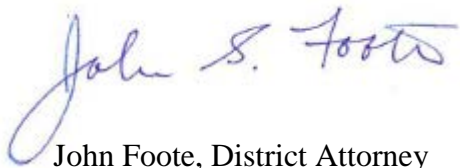
Ken Humberston, Commissioner  
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners



Sonya Fischer, Commissioner  
Clackamas County Board of Commissioners



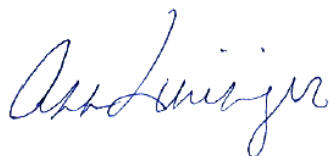
Robert D. Herndon, Presiding Judge  
Clackamas County Circuit Court



John Foote, District Attorney  
Clackamas County



Craig Roberts, Sheriff  
Clackamas County



Representative Ann Lininger, District 38  
Oregon State Legislature



Representative Bill Kennemer, District 39  
Oregon State Legislature



Karen Brisbin, Justice of the Peace  
Clackamas County Justice Court



Charlotte Lehan, Councilor  
Wilsonville City Council



Alice Norris, former Mayor  
City of Oregon City



Melissa Erlbaum, Executive Director  
Clackamas Women's Services



Jackie Manz, Council President  
Lake Oswego City Council



Jeff Gudman, Councilor  
Lake Oswego City Council



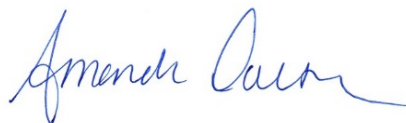
Theresa M. Kohlhoff, Councilor  
Lake Oswego City Council



Brent Barton, Attorney  
Barton Trial Attorneys



Robert R. Selander, former Presiding Judge  
Clackamas County Circuit Court



Amanda Dalton, Partner  
Metro Law Group LLC



Peter O. Watts, Attorney  
Jordan Ramis



Michael H. Bloom, Attorney  
Michael H. Bloom, P.C.



C. Lane Borg, Executive Director  
Metropolitan Public Defender Services, INC.



Robert Le Chevallier, Partner  
Buckley Law, PC.

CC: Speaker Tina Kotek  
President Peter Courtney  
Senator Fred Girod  
Representative Paul Holvey