From: Maupin Mayor
To: JWMCC Exhibits
Subject: Testimony - HB 5025 and SB 5530
Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 11:44:24 AM

Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

Co-Chair, Senator Fred Girod

Co-Chair, Rep. Paul Holvey

Senate President, Peter Courtney

Senator Richard Devlin

Representative John Huffman

House Speaker Tina Kotek

Representative Greg Smith
Representative Jennifer Williamson

RE: HB 5025 and SB 5530

Regional Solutions Budget

The City of Maupin has been a huge beneficiary of having Regional Solutions in place.

For a small city, to be able to reach out to the Regional Solutions Team is an immeasurable asset. This spring, we created a list of possible projects to further move Maupin forward. Rather than shopping for agencies, the RegionalSolutions Team brought several relevant agencies with them to a meeting in Maupin. This provided us with experts in each area where we see a need for improving Maupin as we move into the future.

The real sign of success of this method and the valuable asset Regional Solutions provides to a small city is the current broadband project. The grant secured through their efforts, and those of Business Oregon and others, spurred additional private grants. Then a private company, LS Networks, stepped in to further advance and enhance the project. Working with Q-Life, a quasi-governmental agency providing middle mile service within Wasco County, a plan was created to bring high speed fiber connections to every home and business in Maupin.

This effort, spurred by the grants secured through Regional Solutions, doubled the investment in the Maupin project. It created public-private partnerships which will be ongoing. It brought Internet Service Providers, our electric utility, city and county government, and private business together in a single objective. Work on this project is ongoing and will be completed this summer.

The project has already spurred growth. Since the first of this year, we have three new residential building permits and two business building permits in place. Questions related to additional permits, property availability, and building/zoning regulations come into City Hall on a daily basis. For a city the size of Maupin, this is a phenomenal increase. This will impact our future as tax revenues will increase for the city as well as for the county and state.

The budget request for Regional Solutions is an investment in the future of our state and our communities which will continue to bring rewards long into the future. I urge you to pass the budgetary requirements for this valuable asset to our small communities.

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