



# CITY OF DONALD

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May 17, 2017

Oregon State Capitol

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capitol Construction

Salem, OR

## RE: Support for the Governor's Regional Solutions Team and Funding of SB 5530

Dear Committee Members:

Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod

House Democratic Leader Jennifer Williamson

Speaker Tina Kotek

Representative Greg Smith

Co-Chair Representative Paul Holvey

Senator Peter Courtney

Senator Richard Devlin

Representative John Huffman

On behalf of the City of Donald, I would like to submit to you this letter of support for SB 5530, which would continue the funding for the Governor's Regional Solutions Team (RST). Since 2012, the City of Donald has used RST to reach viable solutions for difficult problems. As the City Manager of a rural city it is challenging to find staff time and money to devote to working through development or infrastructure issues; but the RST Regional Representative provides us that special attention that makes it all work.

In the last few years, the City has used their RST Representative, James LaBar, to work across jurisdictions at the State and County levels; as well as branching out to include non-profit organizations and private businesses. Donald currently has one of the largest development projects in the midst of construction in Marion, Yamhill and Polk counties (Donald Industrial Park) and as you can imagine there was a lot of coordination to get to this point and I believe there will be until it opens. Please understand the immense level of support that the City receives from the RST Representative and to eliminate the funding source that supports this positing would be devastating to our small city.

Additionally, we have learned of financial opportunities, like grants, from our RST Representative, which provides necessary funding to support rural Oregon. Many branches of State government provide unique programs and the RST Representative makes it easier to learn about them, as they are needed. The one-stop meetings are also vital, supportive and necessary for government to run efficiently.

Please realize the severity of the loss of this program to the City of Donald and other rural Oregon communities and vote to support SB 5530. Thank you for your attention to our needs and I am always available to answer any questions you may have.

All the best,

Heidi Bell, MPA

City Manager