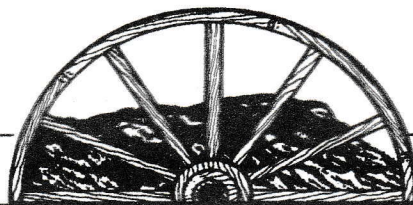


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CITY OF



LA GRANDE

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THE HUB OF NORTHEASTERN OREGON

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OFFICE of the MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL P.O. BOX 670 LA GRANDE, OREGON 97850 Phone (541)962-1309 FAX (541) 963-3333

May 3, 2019

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street, HR E  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs, Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of La Grande, we are writing for the record to urge state investment in the restoration of the Grand Staircase at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) as recommended in the Governor's budget.

Attached is a letter the City submitted in March that outlines in more detail why this investment from the state complements our strategic plan to strengthen the entire corridor that connects the university with our downtown. This includes \$2 million of investment from the City of La Grande on two projects prioritized because of their proximity to the staircase.

State investment of \$3 million would represent a partnership with the City of La Grande on a cultural treasure that honors and preserves the history of eastern Oregon while making important infrastructure improvements that promote economic growth and livability in our community.

In short, this staircase is not just a university asset but one for the entire region.

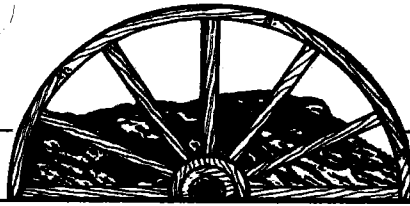
Please partner with us at the City and our other private partners to restore the staircase and preserve this part of Oregon history.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Clements  
Mayor, City of La Grande

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OFFICE of the MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL P.O. BOX 670 LA GRANDE, OREGON 97850 Phone (541) 962-1309 FAX (541) 963-3333

March 6, 2019

**The Honorable Fred Girod  
The Honorable Paul Holvey  
Joint Ways & Means Capital Construction Subcommittee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301**

Re: The Grand Staircase at Eastern Oregon University

Dear Co-Chairs, The Honorable Fred Girod and The Honorable Paul Holvey,

On behalf of the City of La Grande we are writing in support of, and to urge investment in, restoring the Grand Staircase at Eastern Oregon University, as included in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

As City Councilors, we understand firsthand the challenges of managing budgets to maximize public services and benefit with limited resources, and we appreciate that the state is taking great deliberation in how and where it utilizes its bonding capacity in the construction or maintenance of public infrastructure.

The City of La Grande rarely issues a formal request of support to the legislature. But in the case of the Grand Staircase, this infrastructure is not just an EOU asset. The Staircase is the visible connector between Eastern and the City of La Grande, and was an icon for decades before it was officially closed to pedestrian use because of safety concerns.

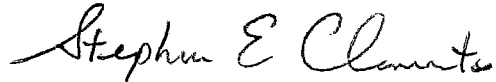
The Staircase is listed on the historical registries at both the state and national levels and is not only a part of eastern Oregon's history, but part of our future.

The state investment would complement and enhance strategic investments already made by the City and support further strategic planning for strengthening the entire corridor from the university campus to downtown.

The City of La Grande Urban Renewal District has invested over \$2 million on two streetscape improvements projects in our downtown over the past few years. The location of the first of these projects was due in part to the proximity of the improvements to Eastern Oregon University with the hope of creating a physical link between the downtown and the University. Currently we expect to see a budget proposal to use our remaining streetscape bond funding along the portion of the District boundary closest to EOU.

As you consider capital construction projects, please understand this is not just a simple Staircase, it is a central part of our region's history and its restoration would help advance core economic development goals for our community. We urge you to partner with us to make this restoration of the Grand Staircase, a key economic connector a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen E. Clements".

Stephen E. Clements  
Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Betsy Johnson  
The Honorable Elizabeth Steiner-Hayward  
The Honorable Dan Rayfield  
The Honorable Bill Hansell  
The Honorable Greg Barreto