

This testimony is on behalf of the Town of Butte Falls in support of the Governor's request for "Regional Infrastructure Finance" (RIF). This funding is important to Butte Falls because it is lottery-bond backed dollars for capital investment that are very flexible and are allocated/prioritized at the regional level.

These dollars could be an important funding source for Butte Falls as we develop our fire resilient community forest surrounding the town. The start-up costs of creating a fire resilient forest infrastructure are large but critical to ensuring that we can prevent destruction by wildfire of our town and surrounding timber and ranch lands. Suppression of berries and brush, thinning of timber, controlled burning and creation of firebreaks require heavy human inputs and are time consumptive. After the initial investment, chemical suppression and other interventions can keep the situation under control.

We have developed a forest plan and prescriptions for each stand. We are ready to implement the plan once we have the infrastructure dollars to do so and are looking to the RIF as a possible source of funding.

Linda Spencer, Mayor
Town of Butte Falls