



Headquarters: 3207 SE 26th Avenue Portland OR 97202
Serving: Oregon, SW Washington and Northern California
Phone: (503) 891-2615 | **Website:** www.kelleynonprofitconsulting.com

January 23, 2022

House Committee on Higher Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

RE: Testimony for HB 3017 in support of Oregon Solutions' grant to establish a collaborative center in Harney County

Dear Chair Lively, Vice Chairs McIntire and Ruiz, and members of the House Committee on Higher Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. On behalf of Kelley Nonprofit Consulting, I am excited to support Oregon Solutions' request for a grant to High Desert Partnership (HDP) to establish a Southeast Oregon Collaborative Center.

I am the founder and owner of Kelley Nonprofit Consulting (Kelley NPC), which has worked with dozens of nonprofit organizations, philanthropic organizations, public agencies, municipal funding programs, and Tribes, since our founding in 2006.

We work alongside clients to tackle tough obstacles, realize new opportunities, and together build stronger organizations and a more resilient Pacific Northwest. Our small team of fifteen, based in urban and rural communities throughout Oregon, provides technical assistance to nonprofits, manages creative partnerships to bring federal and state resources to Oregon's rural communities; and helps philanthropic clients implement new strategic funding opportunities. Kelley NPC serves as a multiplier of sorts— helping public and private entities align their efforts *for the greatest good*.

We have been working with High Desert Partnership for nearly seven years. In that time, we have seen the incredibly vital service they provide to their rural Eastern Oregon community. We have witnessed, firsthand, the opportunities, financial resources, human capital and more HDP's approach brings to Harney County; all while building trusting relationships and weaving resiliency deep into the fabric of this community. By expanding this infrastructure across Southeast Oregon, HDP will share its model for relationship-based collaboration among government agencies, private ranchers, landowners, conservationists, tribal members, and other community members. Increased collaboration means projects can keep moving forward, lawsuits can be avoided, resources can be leveraged, and the innovative new ideas - for which rural Oregon is known - can be nurtured.



Kelley NPC particularly appreciates how HDP is:

- Encouraging of community members sharing their diverse viewpoints.
- Not sector-specific, and supports an array of issues and opportunities unique to rural.
- A magnifier—amplifying community voices, and giving community ideas a platform and programming infrastructure.

And, as the West Coast continues to be ravaged by weather anomalies resulting in natural disasters, and as our state is still recovering from the 2020 wildfires – which Kelley NPC supports through philanthropic, personal and professional initiatives – all Oregonians should have a vested interest in ensuring rural Oregon is resilient and ready. Recent natural disasters such as wildfires have showcased the value of centralized, locally-led organizations who recognize the power of recovery lies in the relationships present *before* disaster strikes.

Finally, HDP applies its collaborative, community-led values to leveraging and managing funding and other resources – which will only increase with the establishment of this Center. Maintaining rural communities, their economies, and their future growth is dependent on models like the proposed Southeast Oregon Collaborative Center, which will allow rural Oregonians to do what they've always done best: bootstrap it and, against all odds, find a way to *work together* to 'make it work'.

Thank you for considering support for this critical resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Kelley', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Owner, Kelley Nonprofit Consulting