



Lake County Board of Commissioners

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Barry Shullanberger, Commissioner
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February 6, 2023

2023 Oregon Legislature
House Committee On Judiciary

Subject: HB 2497

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Andersen and Wallan, Members of the Committee:

Lake County is here today to support House Bill 2497

1. Current our courthouse, specifically our jail and courtroom upstairs are in great need of remodeling and even rebuilding; We have safety and security concerns that need to be address, for example: our jail (one of the oldest in the state) is located right behind the courtroom itself, and a small common public hallway is the only thing that separates our judge's chambers, our jurors, witnesses, victims, adults in custody and public from our courtroom. This alone has presented a number of safety concerns over the years. The need for a new elevator and additional office space are also a growing concern.
2. Our limited County budget simply does not have the capacity to fully rectify issues such as these on our own.
3. We continue to seek a partnership with the State to find solutions for a new Jail, a new (or heavily upgraded) courtroom to expanded capacity, improve security and safety for our judges, our jurors, our personnel and our adults in custody, as well as the general public and victims attending court proceedings.

The population of Lake County is roughly 8000, with over 8,000 square miles of land, a struggling economy and limited resources. A large \$10,000,000+ bond is simply not in the cards for us, and likely won't be for many years to come.

I appreciate your time today, and all that you are doing to advance this important issue, and I hope to see continued support for HB-2497, and the concept of partnership it presents.

Respectfully submitted

James Williams
Lake County Commissioner