

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Robert Cowie, and I am a City Council Member for the City of Chiloquin. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of our community. Today, I respectfully ask for your support of three critical capital project funding requests essential to Chiloquin's health, safety, and future.

1. Rehabilitation of Existing Water Supply Well Building and Equipment

Funding Request: \$800,000

Our primary water supply well building, pump, motor, and associated equipment have exceeded their expected service life and are no longer reliable. The current pump operates at only 50% efficiency. These necessary repairs were initially included in a larger water project, but they had to be removed due to escalating construction costs. This project is shovel-ready. All approvals are secured, bidding is complete, and we are prepared to begin construction as early as April 2025. Funding this project is vital to ensuring our residents have a dependable supply of safe drinking water.

2. Construction of a New Regulatory Compliant Wastewater Treatment Facility

Funding Request: \$3,187,816

Our wastewater treatment system is outdated and does not meet modern environmental standards. We propose constructing a new lagoon treatment facility and effluent reuse system to replace the old plant. This project will eliminate harmful discharges into the Williamson River, protecting essential fish species and water quality downstream in Upper Klamath Lake, both of which hold deep cultural significance for The Klamath Tribes. Construction could begin as early as summer 2025, with most plans and permits already in place. Without legislative support, the financial burden on our small community would be overwhelming.

3. Development of a New Well, Water Line, and Water Meters

Funding Request: \$180,000

Due to newly enforced tribal water rights and the age of our infrastructure, Chiloquin must build a new well and replace transmission lines and water meters across the City.

Although this project has been fully designed and bid, a funding gap of \$180,000 remains, putting our compliance obligations and water security at risk. Construction is ready to begin.

The City of Chiloquin is committed to being a good steward of our public resources and a responsible partner in protecting Oregon's natural environment. However, like many small rural communities, our limited financial capacity makes moving these necessary projects forward difficult without state assistance. Each project is critical to protecting public health, maintaining environmental quality, and supporting the economic stability of Chiloquin.

On behalf of our residents, I respectfully request your support of these funding requests to help build a safer and stronger future for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Cowie

Councilor, City of Chiloquin

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