

April 24, 2025

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair
Members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Clear Lake Road Infrastructure Funding Request

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce, and alongside Onward Eugene, our strategic partner for job creation and business investment, we respectfully urge your support for funding the Clear Lake Industrial Area Infrastructure Project in the upcoming capital construction budget.

This investment is critical to unlocking economic opportunity in our region. The Clear Lake Industrial Area represents over 600 acres of industrially zoned land within the City of Eugene's Urban Growth Boundary—land that holds the potential to create thousands of jobs and attract major employers across multiple industries. But right now, it sits undeveloped and underproductive in terms of jobs and tax dollars and economic output for our region and state because of a lack of critical infrastructure.

This \$10.5 million investment will pair with local and private investment to pay for basic infrastructure needed such as wastewater, stormwater and utilities necessary to make this industrial area “shovel-ready”.

We recognize you have many competing “asks” and hope this project will rise to the top because of its ability to unlock an ROI more than tenfold what the state will invest today.

We need these available lands to position our region to compete with other communities for advanced manufacturing, bioscience, and clean technology employers.

One example of the opportunity in front of us that we could immediately embrace if we secure these funds is a company that has recently expressed serious interest in nearly 200 acres on this site to bring their green manufacturing business to our community. This business alone could bring upwards of 4,000 jobs to our region and over a billion of investment as it ramps up production. The average wages would be between \$90-120K targeting talent currently coming out of programs both at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University.

Without infrastructure in place, we absolutely can not compete for transformational opportunities like this and others we believe can locate on these properties.

In the end, this project is not just about infrastructure and land—it's about securing future prosperity for our community and our state. We believe that targeted state investment now will unlock long-term job creation, private investment, and community vitality.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical infrastructure priority for the Eugene-Springfield region. We welcome the opportunity to provide further details and look forward to partnering with you to support Oregon's economy.

Sincerely,

Brittany Quick-Warner

President & CEO

Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

Dana Siebert

Vice President, Economic Development

Managing Director, Onward Eugene