

May 9, 2025

**RE: Support for Clear Lake Road Infrastructure Funding Request**

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and Members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee,

My name is Eric Forrest, and I am the President of Bigfoot Beverages, a family-owned and operated beverage distributor serving communities across Oregon since 1947. We are proud to employ over **400 people** across multiple locations, including our Eugene facility, where we distribute some of the most recognized beverage brands to local retailers, restaurants, and institutions.

I am writing today to express our strong support for funding the Clear Lake Industrial Area Infrastructure Project in the upcoming capital construction budget.

Bigfoot Beverages has firsthand experience with the challenges and missed opportunities associated with the Clear Lake site. We previously explored expanding our operations into the Clear Lake Industrial Area but ultimately could not make it work — not because of a lack of vision or commitment, but because of the absence of basic infrastructure such as wastewater, stormwater, utilities, and transportation access. Without these fundamental services in place, even companies eager to invest locally are forced to look elsewhere.

The Clear Lake Industrial Area represents over **600 acres** of industrially zoned land with the potential to generate up to **6,000 new jobs** and bring transformational private investment into the Eugene area. As a local employer, I can tell you that this type of development matters not just for large-scale manufacturers, but for the entire regional business ecosystem. It drives opportunity across sectors, strengthens workforce pipelines, and ensures that Oregon companies — like Bigfoot Beverages — can grow and succeed right here at home.

I understand that this session brings many competing funding requests and that legislators are weighing priorities carefully in today's fiscal climate. But I believe the Clear Lake Infrastructure Project is exactly the kind of targeted, high-impact investment that will pay long-term dividends for the state — by supporting job creation, economic development, and local businesses up and down the supply chain.

On behalf of Bigfoot Beverages and our employees, I respectfully urge you to approve funding for the Clear Lake Industrial Area Infrastructure Project and help lay the groundwork for a stronger, more competitive Oregon.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if I can provide additional insights from a local employer's perspective.

Sincerely,



Eric Forrest  
Co-President  
Bigfoot Beverages