



Since 1935

May 9, 2025

Subject: Support for Clear Lake Road Infrastructure Funding Request

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

My name is Steve Wildish, and I am Vice President and General Counsel at Wildish Companies. As a fourth-generation, family-owned business headquartered in Eugene, Oregon, Wildish has been proud to serve Oregon communities for nearly a century, providing construction, aggregates, heavy civil contracting, and related services across the region. Today, Wildish employs approximately **300 people** across our operations, reflecting our deep commitment to the regional workforce and local economy.

I write today in strong support of funding for the Clear Lake Industrial Area Infrastructure Project in the upcoming capital construction budget.

From our vantage point at Wildish, we have a unique perspective on the importance of economic development and infrastructure investment. Our work spans public and private projects, and over the years we have seen firsthand how strategic infrastructure improvements can drive economic growth, strengthen local businesses, and create family-wage jobs that sustain entire communities.

The Clear Lake Industrial Area — encompassing over **600 acres** of industrially zoned land within Eugene's Urban Growth Boundary — is one of the largest and most promising development opportunities in the state. With the potential to support up to **6,000 new jobs** and attract over **\$1 billion** in private investment, Clear Lake is positioned to become a hub for advanced manufacturing, clean technology, bioscience, and other key industries. Importantly, the **average wages** associated with these industries, estimated between **\$90,000 and \$120,000**, have the power to meaningfully improve lives and expand opportunity in our region.

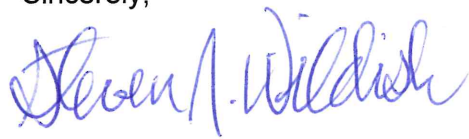
But the current lack of essential infrastructure — wastewater, stormwater, utilities, and transportation access — has left this site sitting idle. Without state investment, Eugene and Lane County risk losing out to other regions that already offer development-ready land to employers eager to invest.

At Wildish, we view economic development as more than just business growth; it's about improving the quality of life for families, creating new opportunities for workers, and strengthening the long-term resilience of our communities. Projects like Clear Lake create ripple effects — not just in industry, but in housing, services, retail, and education — that uplift the entire region and lay the groundwork for shared prosperity.

I understand that this committee faces difficult funding choices, especially in a time of fiscal caution. But the Clear Lake Infrastructure Project is precisely the kind of forward-looking, high-impact investment that can deliver both immediate and lasting benefits for our region and for Oregon as a whole.

On behalf of Wildish Companies and our employees, I respectfully urge you to approve funding for the Clear Lake Industrial Area Infrastructure Project. Thank you for your leadership and consideration, and please feel free to reach out if I can provide further insight from the perspective of a long-time local employer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven J. Wildish". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steven J. Wildish
Vice President & General Counsel
Wildish Companies