

Scott Cooper

Alternative Youth Activities

5/7/25

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Empire District Revitalization Project – SB 5531

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Alternative Youth Activities I am writing to voice our strong support for the Empire District Revitalization Project included in SB 5531.

This initiative reflects the kind of visionary thinking that communities like ours urgently need. It centers dignity, sustainability, and long-term housing security—not in isolation, but as part of a larger system. With planned shelter, rental, and homeownership opportunities located within a single neighborhood, this project will provide a seamless path from crisis to stability.

We are particularly excited about how this project builds on the groundwork of the **SPARC Network**, which is aligning housing and services across the South Coast. The Empire District site is uniquely positioned to demonstrate how rural Oregon can lead on coordinated, service-integrated housing development.

We urge your full support of this funding request.

Sincerely,

Scott Cooper

Executive Director: Alternative Youth Activities