

RACHEL ARMITAGE

February 3, 2026

Capital Construction Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse,

I'm reaching out to share my strongest support for Consejo Hispano's capital construction grant request to repurpose an old church in the center of Astoria into a thriving community hub, aptly named Casa Mariposa. As the largest Latinx-led organization serving Oregon's North Coast, Consejo Hispano is more than a community pillar—it's a lifeline for thousands of families navigating extraordinary challenges. Supporting this grant isn't just about funding a building—it's an investment in people, placemaking, and the future of rural Oregon.

Right now, Latinx and immigrant communities (particularly those in rural areas) are facing unprecedented challenges. Federal hostility toward migrants, cuts to essential programs, and rollbacks on language access have left families more vulnerable than ever, destabilizing communities and eroding trust in institutions. This is where Consejo Hispano steps in, filling the gaps and offering hope, stability, and opportunity for those who have been left behind.

For years, Consejo Hispano has delivered real results through programs that empower individuals, uplift families, and strengthen communities. Here are just a few of the critical ways they're making an impact:

- *Economic Empowerment*: Helping families achieve stability with tax assistance, ITIN support, and financial literacy workshops—ensuring even undocumented taxpayers can contribute to their communities.
- *Workforce & Youth Development*: Empowering Latinx youth and women through culinary training, STEM programs, and leadership opportunities, creating pathways to academic and career success.
- *Legal and Crisis Navigation*: Providing bilingual workshops and one-on-one support for immigration processes, rights protection, and crisis resources like food, housing, and energy assistance.
- *Climate Resilience & Disaster Preparedness*: Leading bilingual workshops to prepare coastal Latinx communities for wildfires, floods, and other climate-related emergencies.
- *Cultural Preservation & Identity*: Celebrating Latinx heritage through programs like the Herencia Hispana Curriculum and events like Día de los Muertos, fostering belonging and pride while strengthening community ties.

These programs don't just address immediate needs—they build long-term resilience, economic stability, and cultural pride. Consejo Hispano is uniquely positioned to fill the gaps left by shrinking federal services, offering tailored, culturally specific support to those who need it most.

This capital construction grant would:

- Provide a permanent home for Consejo Hispano's 19 essential programs, which serve multiple rural counties along the North Coast.
- Expand services to meet the growing needs of a vulnerable and underserved population.
- Strengthen Oregon's commitment to equity, resilience, and opportunity for all.

It's clear that investing in Consejo Hispano is a strategic decision that benefits every Oregonian. When communities have access to resources—regardless of language, immigration status, or income—our entire state thrives. This grant ensures that Consejo Hispano can continue to drive economic stability, educational success, climate resilience, and cultural preservation, while ensuring no one is left behind.

I know this is a tough budget year, and every dollar counts. But this isn't just about funding a single organization. It's about investing in a stronger, more equitable Oregon where every family has the chance to thrive. Consejo Hispano's grant request aligns with Oregon's values of justice, equity, and opportunity for all.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this critical investment. If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Rachel Armitage
Former Oregon State Senator, District 16