



# Clatsop County

## Board of Commissioners

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April 6, 2022

Dear Grant Administrator,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments in support of the rural community facility project Clatsop County has prioritized for the upcoming fiscal year.

As Clatsop County's Board of Commissioners, we feel strongly about the urgency of the Courthouse Security Improvements project. There are concerns of substantial threats to public safety with the courthouse's current lack of single point entry, as well as an existing elevator that is nearing the end of its lifecycle. As Board members we are committed to ensuring the safety of our community members engaging with courthouse services and are advocating for funding that would lead to increased court security.

During a 2019 courthouse vulnerability assessment, the Oregon Judicial Department Marshal's Office identified the absence of a single entrance with security screening as "...the single most significant vulnerability of the entire facility." Moreover, a 2021 inspection of the courthouse elevator classified its condition as "critical," indicating "multiple safety and code concerns" and "major components are expected to fail," recommending it "...is modernized as soon as possible." The planned renovations will place the single point of entry with security screening at ground level, near the elevator. As a result, the frequency in which it is used will increase considerably.

At present, Clatsop County has identified funds through its budgeting process, contracted with an architect, completed the schematic design, and submitted a cost sharing request to the Oregon Justice Department/Association of Oregon Counties. If awarded federal dollars made available by Community Project Funding (CPF), they would be utilized for construction/renovations, currently scheduled for FY2022-2023.

Admittedly, we recognize funding mechanisms are not always equipped to equitably measure how essential projects such as this are for rural counties. Thus, it is our hope, with this letter, to convey the necessity of the Courthouse Security Improvements projects for the Clatsop County community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this important request.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala

Chair

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners