



POLK COUNTY

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April 18, 2017

Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Re: Regional Solutions 2017-19 budget request.

Co-chairs Senator Johnson and Representative Gomberg, members of the committee,

I am providing a letter of support to the Ways and Means Subcommittee for consideration of the Regional Solutions budget request for 2017-19. The request is for \$11M of lottery bond proceeds to support regional priority economic and community development projects.

I serve on the Mid-Willamette Valley Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (RSAC) and have been there since 2012. I have seen the RSAC grow in strength over the past few years and develop a solid pathway of accomplishing the goals set forth by the committee. So much of that accomplishment comes from having a great coordinator working daily to meet goals and create guidance for agency leads on specific projects, but it also takes money.

We have been able to direct previous investments made by the Legislature toward “last dollar” needs for projects of various sizes, but have also been able to create seed money for projects that have been deemed ready to move by the RSAC body. There have been occasions for RSAC’s across the state that these dollars have been directed and have been used in unique ways that would not have found another funding avenue.

My pitch to you is this: We have committed to the Regional Solutions model across the state, and specifically here in the mid valley. It is moving in the right direction and has demonstrated successes with local guidance and conservative legislative investment. The \$11 million request(s) from both HB 5025 and SB 5530 would be a continued financial commitment to a one stop process that serves our constituents in a way that no other process does. This funding request is a good use of Lottery funds toward the intended goals of economic development.

Please support the Regional Solutions funding requests in HB 5025 and SB 5530.

Thank you,
Commissioner Craig Pope
Polk County Board Chair