



City of Boardman

200 City Center Circle
P.O. Box 229
Boardman, OR 97818
Phone: (541) 481-9252
Fax: (541) 481-3244
TTY Relay 711

www.cityofboardman.com

March 5, 2024

Senator Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Senator Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley:

As you consider projects for Congressionally Directed Spending, we are pleased to extend strong support from City of Boardman for the following requests made by the Port of Morrow. Investment in these initiatives will boost environmental sustainability, economic opportunity, quality of life, and safety throughout our community.

Groundwater Water Quality & Conservation Program

The Port of Morrow is seeking funds for wastewater infrastructure improvements that will provide a long-term sustainable wastewater solution to ensure protection of groundwater supplies while meeting the needs of the region's growing industries and local farms. Funding will be used to accomplish key components of the Port's comprehensive wastewater treatment strategy it has been coordinating with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

South Port Rail Safety Enhancements

Dating back to the Port's creation in 1959, key locations of original rail infrastructure in the south Port area have come to the end of their useful life span. Despite being maintained to FRA and ODOT standards, replacement of this 60-year-old infrastructure is essential to serve existing and future partners without fear of costly derailments. The South Port Rail Safety Enhancements would address these needs by upgrading nearly 6,000 feet of aging rail along with 7 turnouts and 1 grade crossing that combined have increasingly caused safety hazards and delays. Completion of the project will facilitate safer, more efficient, and expanded transportation through the railyard, while lowering fuel consumption and emissions by reducing longer rail shipments to Portland and the Puget Sound.

Port of Morrow Interchange Improvement Project

This project would provide improvements from Interstate 84 to the Port of Morrow Industrial Park to facilitate the safe flow of trucks and local traffic between the interstate and the Port. Upgrades include the construction of a new roundabout at Exit 165, interstate on-ramp improvements to help with traffic control, and a sidewalk for pedestrian access. Once complete, this initiative will increase efficiency and eliminate safety hazards for the local community.

As you review projects for Congressionally Directed Spending, we respectfully ask you to consider the significant benefits these projects will bring to our community. Thank you for your attention to these important initiatives and continued support for eastern Oregon.

Sincerely,

Paul Keefer, Mayor