

February 9, 2026

**RE:** Punkin Center Bridge



To Whom It May Concern:

**Office of the Mayor**  
DOUG PRIMMER

I am proud to express support for the proposed Punkin Center Bridge Project, which will extend Punkin Center Road across the Umatilla River to connect directly with Interstate 82, and facilitate more direct movement between the cities of Hermiston and Umatilla. This project represents a critical investment in the future of Hermiston and the surrounding region.

Hermiston-Umatilla area is the largest, and fastest growing, community in eastern Oregon and serves as a hub for commerce, agriculture, and transportation. Currently, access to and from I-82 is limited for Hermiston, while access to the commercial, healthcare, and employment opportunities in Hermiston are limited for Umatilla residents.

By creating a direct connection between Hermiston, Umatilla, and I-82, the Punkin Center Bridge will:

- **Improve regional connectivity** by linking Hermiston more efficiently to interstate and national transportation networks.
- **Enhance economic development** by improving resident and business access to I-82.
- **Increase public safety and resilience** by providing an additional crossing over the Umatilla River, improving emergency response and evacuation routes.

This project is not only a transportation improvement—it is a strategic investment that will strengthen western Umatilla County's role as the primary economic engine for eastern Oregon. We strongly urge support and funding for the Punkin Center Bridge Project and look forward to working with partners to make this vision a reality.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Primmer  
Mayor of Hermiston