



**TED FERRIOLI**  
District 30

**Senate Republican Leader**

OREGON STATE SENATE  
SALEM, OR  
97301

April 5, 2017

The Honorable Peter Courtney  
Senate President  
State Capitol, S-201  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Courtney:

I am writing to you concerning a funding need for rural Oregon. With rural populations shrinking, main street businesses shutting down, and economic viability diminishing, I need your help, and rural Oregon needs your help. We as Oregonians should foster policies and support projects that meet the needs of all of our communities, not just the Willamette Valley. There are two immediate projects that we as the Legislature can move forward with to give rural Oregon a much-needed boost. I am requesting your assistance in securing a special appropriation of \$1.836 million to the City of John Day to bring fiber optics to Grant County and \$420,000 for the City of John Day to fill a funding gap in their 9-1-1 services.

Having quality and accessible internet is key to providing an equitable opportunity for commerce and essential in attracting and keeping productive residents in any community. In order to bridge the gap of the digital divide, we should move to bring the opportunity of connectivity and services to all of Oregon's residents. The Grant County Internet Task Force has done extensive research and has been diligent in efforts to bring a competitive broadband infrastructure to the county's residents by running fiber optics lines from Prairie City to Burns. The City of John Day has agreed to facilitate the financing and public contracting activities to distribute fiber optics in the county through an intergovernmental agreement. The cost estimate to bring fiber optics to Grant County is \$1.836 million.

The City of John Day also manages the only public safety answering point (PSAP) for Grant County—the PSAP provides 9-1-1 emergency services. The current 9-1-1 tax is \$0.75 per month. This tax was adopted in 1995 and has not been raised since. The increased cost of personnel, benefits, and services has created a deficit of about \$420,000 for the City of John Day. Grant County intends to offer a local levy option to voters in September to secure a funding base. Until additional funds are secured, the City of John Day needs \$420,000 in a special appropriation to bridge the funding for the deficit.

Attached you will find details of the both requests. These projects are essential in ensuring the well-being and vitality of communities in Grant County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Ferrioli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ted" and last name "Ferrioli" clearly distinguishable.

Ted Ferrioli  
Senate Republican Leader  
Senate District 30