

CHUCK THOMSEN  
STATE SENATOR  
DISTRICT 26



OREGON STATE SENATE

May 24, 2013

TO: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: *ConnectOregon*

Dear Colleagues:

This letter serves as an endorsement of how *ConnectOregon* grant funding has helped the community and economy in Senate District 26. Mount Hood Railroad, which is over 100 years old, is a small private railroad. Due to flooding in 2006, its track washed out in several places. The severe damage to its infrastructure could have led to the eventual closure of the railroad, loss of revenue, freight and passenger service important to the local economy, jobs, and an important aspect of tourism in our area.

Mount Hood Railroad likely could not have managed a forgivable loan or a higher match amount in those circumstances. But the *ConnectOregon* grant program provided exactly what was needed in this situation. Senate District 26 says thank you for helping the Gorge economy through this program.

Please note the attached letters written in support of the railroad's *ConnectOregon* grant application, particularly the one from the Oregon congressional delegation.

Sincerely,

State Senator Chuck Thomsen  
Senate District 26