

**From:** [Derrick DeGroot](#)  
**To:** [Bocc](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of support for railroad grant  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 6:10:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [Klamath County Letter of Support Lake County Railroad.docx](#)

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Please place on next available agenda.

DD

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**From:** Sandra Cox  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 22, 2021 8:18 AM  
**To:** Donnie Boyd <dboyd@klamathcounty.org>; Derrick DeGroot <ddegroot@klamathcounty.org>; Kelley Minty Morris <kmorris@klamathcounty.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of support for railroad grant

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**From:** Sharon Leighty <[sharon@sharonleightyconsulting.com](mailto:sharon@sharonleightyconsulting.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 21, 2021 3:25 PM  
**To:** Bocc <[bocc@klamathcounty.org](mailto:bocc@klamathcounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Letter of support for railroad grant

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am contacting you on behalf of Lake County.

Lake County is applying for a \$19.6 million RAISE (Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity) grant. This funding will complete the rail improvements to safely and economically transport products to markets outside of Lake County as well as importing necessary manufacturing materials. This work will complete the initial work included the 2019 CRISI grant.

We are seeking a letter of support from Klamath County for this grant. If you are willing to provide a letter of support, please email the letter of support to me by June 30, 2021. Attached is a draft letter for your use. Please edit, sign and place on your letterhead.

Thank you for your help. Have a good week.

Sharon  
President  
She/Her/Hers

Sharon Leighty & Co.

61535 S Hwy 97 Ste 5-655  
Bend, OR 97702  
541-408-5060  
[sharonleightyconsulting.com](http://sharonleightyconsulting.com)

Member, Association of Philanthropic Counsel

Please excuse any typos or skipped words in this email. I am currently experiencing vision challenges.



## Board of Commissioners

Donnie Boyd, Commissioner  
Position One

Kelley Minty Morris, Commissioner  
Position Two

Derrick DeGroot, Commissioner  
Position Three

June 29, 2021

Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 NW Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Klamath County is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Lake County Railroad's application for a RAISE grant. Lake County is requesting a \$19.6 million grant to complete the funding to rehabilitate the 55 miles of Lake County Railroad.

The Lake County Railroad is based in Lakeview, Oregon. The short-line operation begins in Lakeview and travels south across the California state border into Alturas, where the line then extends to meet with a Union Pacific operated line that runs through Klamath County. The railroad offers a low-cost shipping option for local businesses and customers.

Without this low-cost transportation option, the region will lose our economic competitiveness to communities that are in closer proximity to main highways and trucking routes. Funding for the railroad infrastructure improvements and upgrades will help improve access to reliable, safe and affordable transportation for rural communities in the region. Projects that improve infrastructure conditions, promote regional connectivity, or facilitate economic growth or competitiveness are critical to the well-being of Lake County.

The Lake County railroad must remain efficient and operational for the economic vitality in this region. Thank you for supporting this vital transportation link to Lake County.

Sincerely,

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Donnie Boyd  
Commissioner

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Kelley Minty Morris  
Chair

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Derrick DeGroot  
Vice Chair