



Lane County Board of Commissioners

Bill Dwyer
Bobby Green, Sr.
Anna Morrison
Peter Sorenson
Cindy Weeldreyer

PASSED

February 14, 2002

WP bc/bd/02025/T

The Honorable Warren Weathers
Mayor of the City of Lowell
Lowell City Hall
Lowell, OR 97452

Dear Mayor Weathers:

Thank you for sharing with us the details of an innovative "good government" project you've been planning for the last three years with the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Lowell School District. The transfer of three USFS owned houses into school district ownership as you've described is a genuine effort to get the highest and best utilization of these federally owned surplus properties.

The concept of transferring these residences that have been used in the past for housing forest service employees in the Lowell District of the Willamette National Forest is an excellent example of intergovernmental partnerships. that benefit the distressed rural communities such as Lowell. These three houses, which are situated on land owned by the Corps of Engineers and are in close proximity to Lowell High School, will surely be beneficial to the citizens, taxpayers, and students of the Lowell School District.

It is our understanding from you that the school district plans to remodel these houses as a hands-on practical learning experience for its shop class students. When all the details are finalized the students will have the opportunity to improve their skills in the areas of painting, roofing, drywall replacement, electrical wiring, plumbing, etc. Once the houses are remodeled the school district plans to rent them out to families with children to boost its district's enrollment, which amounts to approximately \$ 5,000/year per student under the State of Oregon's K-12 equalization formula. The remodeled houses would then also generate ongoing rental income for Lowell School District.

As you know from your frequent visits to our board conference room, you've seen on display Lane County's super goal of directing all county departments to support programs and projects that benefit children and their families. The proposed transfer of these properties in Lowell to benefit your rural school district and its students is one that fits nicely into the spirit of our County's super goal as well.

Therefore, on behalf of the Lane County Board of Commissioners, we would like to add this letter to the other letters of support you've received from other agencies in this unique display of inter-governmental cooperation and assistance to an economically distressed rural community like yours.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill Dwyer", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Dwyer, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners