

AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING () Discussion only
(X) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): County Counsel

SUBJECT: Letter of Support

<p>Background:</p> <p>The Board of Commissioners has been requested to provide a letter of support for the Oregon range project on the Navy Board property. The letter is before for the Board to review and to consider.</p>	<p>Requested Action:</p> <p>Approve letters and authorize the Chair to sign</p>
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ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Letters

*****For Internal Use Only*****

Checkoffs:

- () Dept. Heard (copy)
- () Human Resources (copy)
- () Fiscal
- (X) Legal (copy)
- () (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:

Needed at Meeting:

Scheduled for meeting on: February 21, 2024

Action taken:

Follow-up:

Board of Commissioners



216 S. E. 4th Street
Pendleton, OR 97801

Daniel N. Dorran
541-278-6201

John M. Shafer
541-278-6203

Celinda A. Timmons
541-278-6202

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oregon Military Department, Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range, Naval Weapons System Training Facility in Boardman, Oregon

Dear Senator Merkley,

It is with great pleasure that Umatilla County Board of Commissioners provides a letter in support of the Oregon Military Department's project to construct a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range on Department of the Navy property located in Boardman, Oregon. We request this range project receive consideration for fiscal year 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) opportunities.

The MPMG Range project is a collaboration with Navy that started in 2004. Environmental planning and validations are complete. In 2019, the MPMG range was placed onto the 2025 Department of Defense (DoD) Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) as a National Guard Military Construction project. Due to budget constraints, however, this project has now been moved to 2029 and may likely move to even later fiscal years. Nevertheless, the MPMG Range is ready to construct now.

The MPMG Range is mission critical for the Oregon Military Department's Rees Training Center in Hermiston, Oregon, which is Oregon's premier Training Center for: National Guard, Active-Duty, Reserve, other DoD components, State and Municipal Law Enforcement, First Responders, as well as other agencies.

The MPMG Range brings mandatory Crew Served Weapons (CSW) qualification capabilities to Oregon. Currently, Oregon Soldiers (733) must travel outside the state, at 2-3 times the distance, consuming valuable training time while reducing Soldiers available for key State contingency operations. The MPMG Range will also provide needed economic benefits in rural Oregon through the initial military construction work as well as subsequent future uses.

The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners fully supports the Oregon Military Department's project to construct the MPMG Range in Boardman, Oregon.

Sincerely,

John M. Shafer
Chair, Board of Commissioners

Board of Commissioners



216 S. E. 4th Street
Pendleton, OR 97801

Daniel N. Dorran
541-278-6201

John M. Shafer
541-278-6203

Celinda A. Timmons
541-278-6202

February 21, 2024

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oregon Military Department, Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range, Naval Weapons System Training Facility in Boardman, Oregon

Dear Senator Wyden:

It is with great pleasure that Umatilla County Board of Commissioners provides a letter in support of the Oregon Military Department's project to construct a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun (MPMG) Range on Department of the Navy property located in Boardman, Oregon. We request this range project receive consideration for fiscal year 2025 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) opportunities.

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Sincerely,

John M. Shafer
Chair, Board of Commissioners