

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED
PRIOR TO THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' SESSION
ON
Thursday, January 15, 2026
AT
10:00 A.M.

Questions, concerns or comments about these items can be directed
to staff or the Commissioners by contacting the Commissioners' office at

(503) 434-7501

OR

BOCINFO@yamhillcounty.gov

From: [Jane Moore](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: G-01-25
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 8:09:12 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Please keep the Yamhelas-Westsider Trail corridor in the Transportation System Plan and protect our public land . Thank you. Doris Jane Moore
Sent from my iPhone

From: hope9robert@gmail.com
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: "Docket G-01-25"
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 9:29:47 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear County Commissioners,

There is tremendous public support for keeping the Yamhalis-Westsider Trail Corridor in our county's transportation plan. This rare opportunity to create a wonderful trail for the residents of Yamhill County and visitors to the wine country to enjoy should not be let go. I have developed trail systems on both the east coast and in southern Oregon. Gaining access to a former rail corridor is a fabulous chance to create something that is sorely lacking in our county – trails. Its one of my biggest disappointment about living here after living in southern Oregon where there were hundreds of miles of trails for all of us to enjoy. It would be a short-sighted decision to slam the door on this chance to build a new trail. Rails to trails exist through farmland all over the US and its been done very successfully. There are some easy management steps that can be taken to reduce any conflicts. Recreation is an important amenity for any area and a key contributor to economic health. Please do not destroy this chance to add a trail that really will be a major contribution to the majority of the population around our county.

Thank you,
Hope Robertson
McMinnville

From: [Leann Bennett](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Docket G-01-25
Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 9:32:25 AM

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Regarding the Yamhelas Westsider Trail

My husband and I are outdoor enthusiasts and whole heartedly support the trail.

We would ride our bikes, eat at the restaurants and stay at the lodging nearby and generally support the local economy when using this trail.

Having a safe alternative to the highway is the key factor. I lost an old friend (Larry Jacobs) in October hit and killed on HWY 240.

A pedestrian hit by a car while getting his mail and visiting with his neighbor.

In my mind there is no valid reason to not proceed with the development of this trail, and I would think any commissioner that opposes this opposes safety.

Thank you,
Leann Bennett
Parrett Mt.

From: [Dave Rucklos](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: C-PACE Letter of Support
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 1:16:15 PM
Attachments: [Letter of Support-C-PACE.docx](#)

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Please see attached letter of support to be included in your Thursday, January 15 meeting.
Should you have any questions please be sure and reach out.



Dave Rucklos
Economic Development & Tourism
Director
416 Ferry Street
Dayton, Oregon 97114
Phone: 503.864.2221
Cell: 503.427.4850
www.daytonoregon.gov

January 13, 2026

Re: C-PACE Program

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to urge Yamhill County to recognize and adopt the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program as a strategic economic development tool.

I was first introduced to the C-PACE financing concept when a developer was evaluating a major construction project in Dayton. At that time, it was explained that more than 30 states currently offer C-PACE programs, including Oregon. Within the state, counties such as Multnomah, Deschutes, and Benton have already implemented programs that allow property owners to access low-cost, long-term capital for building improvements, many of which effectively pay for themselves through energy and operational savings.

For new construction in particular, C-PACE provides financing support for cost-reducing, long-term improvements that traditional commercial loans do not incentivize. The program's low administrative fee can be absorbed by the developer, while the resulting reductions in energy consumption improve efficiency and lower operating costs over time. This structure minimizes upfront barriers and eliminates the need for costly third-party facilitation.

Importantly, C-PACE financing allows liens and assessments to transfer upon sale of the property. Unlike traditional loans that must be paid off at the time of sale, this feature removes a significant disincentive for developers, encouraging investment even when long-term ownership is not planned. As a result, C-PACE reduces development risk and supports projects that might otherwise be delayed or abandoned.

By enabling access to affordable capital, improving project feasibility, and encouraging sustainable development, C-PACE represents a proven tool to stimulate local investment and economic growth. I strongly encourage Yamhill County to consider adopting this program to enhance competitiveness, attract development, and support long-term efficiency gains across the county.

Sincerely,

Dave Rucklos
Tourism and Economic Development Director
City of Dayton



cityofdayton@daytonoregon.gov
416 Ferry Street / PO Box 339, Dayton, Oregon 97114
503-864-2221
www.DaytonOregon.gov



From: Amanda Kerber
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Eloheh appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 8:01:55 AM

Spam

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Good morning Yamhill Board of Commissioners,

I'm reaching out to voice my support for Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. I understand they have a hearing before the board on February 12 regarding permit restrictions for the use of their land.

I wholeheartedly support the work of Eloheh and have benefited from their wisdom and teaching, and been inspired by their writings and practices.

I ask that you accommodate their religious practice which requires extended land- based gathering.

Thank you
Amanda Kerber

From: Deena Jones
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Eloheh Indigenous Center
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 7:20:19 AM

Spam

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Dear People:

I am a Christian and I support religious freedom for all.

I have been a guest at Eloheh Center and am a better person today because of what I learned there. Please do not restrict their ability to practice their faith on their own land.

Respectfully,

--

Rev. Deena Jones

From: [Brian Barclay](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Eloheh/ Woodley support
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 7:32:24 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Board of Commissioners,

As you consider religious accommodation for Eloheh Indigenous Center, I hope you will notice the goodness, health and peacemaking already evident at and through Eloheh, and seriously consider how to accommodate the unique needs of this organization for the benefit of the local and wider community. It would be good for this organization and people around it for it to be allowed to pursue its full vision for teaching, land care, spiritual development and relationship building.

I met Randy Woodley more than a decade ago when he led a workshop at a national Christian conference. Randy and Edith are cultural bridgebuilders, making it possible for different groups to communicate and grow together. Books of his have helped my wife and I, and our church, widen our view of how diverse the Church is intended to be, and the deficit caused by Sunday morning segregation. They and their organization are teaching time-proven ways of earth care which the land- and its inhabitants and decision-makers- desperately need these days.

Respectfully,
Brian

(if helpful to know- i'm a caucasian follower of Jesus who cares deeply about healthy cross-cultural relationships, ecological thriving and social justice. I would love to attend events at their property, though that's challenging since I live on the east coast.)

Brian Barclay
75 Ference Rd
Ashford, CT

From: Jim Ewan
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Eloheh's Right to Worship
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 6:18:41 AM

Spam

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I am writing this in support of Eloheh Indigenous Center. Please allow them the religious rights that they are due as Americans.

Indigenous spirituality is not like traditional religions. Indigenous spirituality

requires extended, land-based gatherings and is not limited to an hour on a given day.

The people in charge, the Woodleys, are respected educators and authors who have served Indigenous communities for over 30 years. Please allow them to continue offering the valuable services that they need and want to provide.

Religious freedom should not be limited to the mainline traditional faiths, but it should protect all faiths, including those whose practices differ from traditional Christianity.

Please, allow Eloheh to practice their religion as needed rather than restricting their faith.

Jim Ewan

May You Have Happiness, May You Be Free

From: [Drew Jennings-Grisham](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: I support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 6:10:59 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am not a Yamhill County resident, but I have visited your beautiful land where I have participated in learning and ceremonial gatherings at Eloheh Farm and Indigenous Center. Recently it came to my attention that you have put into place certain permit restrictions that limit how often places like Eloheh can host overnight gatherings on their own land. The restrictions would make many of their traditional ceremonies—sweat lodges, cedar fire ceremony, seasonal gatherings—nearly impossible to hold.

Indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering—it cannot be practiced in a building for an hour on Sunday, and the religious freedom enshrined in our nation's constitution should protect all faiths in their ability to practice their beliefs.

Randy and Edith Woodley are friends, mentors and trusted teachers to many people, myself included, and the work they are doing at their farm is only benefiting Yamhill County, and beyond, and I believe they should be allowed to continue their farm and educational and spiritual gatherings. Their work is helping educate people in ways that help to bring health and wellness to your county. I ask you to please consider accommodating their request for exemption to this permit restriction.

Sincerely,
Drew Jennings-Grisham

From: [Janeen Bertsche Johnson](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Please allow indigenous faith gatherings
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 5:49:27 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am a Mennonite pastor in Indiana serving as campus pastor of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. I organize a biennial conference at our seminary that draws participants from across North America. A few years ago, Randy Woodley was one of our keynote speakers. He is a respected theologian who integrates indigenous spirituality into his Christian faith.

I have watched as Randy and Edith built Eloheh Indigenous Center into a gathering place to teach people how to live in harmony with God and the land. We need their witness desperately in the midst of climate change and ecological crisis. I am writing to request that you adjust your permit restrictions to allow them and their guests to practice faith freely, able to incorporate the indigenous practices that many people observe.

As a Christian leader from a denomination that has sometimes been persecuted for our beliefs, I am grateful for government protections of religious freedom. Please extend those protections to the Eloheh Indigenous Center.

Sincerely,

Janeen Bertsche Johnson
Campus Pastor
[Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary](#)
["Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ"](#)

From: Myrna Honda
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: A plea for Indigenous communities
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 7:22:57 AM

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Board,

I am making a plea to you on behalf of Elohey and all my indigenous family. Spirituality and worship has not been in a church for my ancestors. It has been one in nature with all creation.

I beg you prevent the law from restricting our worship practices and places those take place.

Thank you for hearing me,

Myrna Andersen, Turtle Mountain Chippewa

From: [Randy Hamm](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Eloheh Appeal on Feb 12
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 9:15:14 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

To the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing you to show my support of Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

As a Baptist pastor, I highly support religious freedom and cannot stand by while this freedom is taken away from a wonderful group. Much like the tradition of Christian retreats, indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering—it cannot be practiced in a building for an hour on Sunday.

The Woodleys are respected educators and authors who have served Indigenous communities and Christian churches for over 30 years. I have benefited from their teaching, both from books and online courses. They have challenged me to grow much deeper in my faith in Jesus.

Religious freedom should protect all faiths, including those whose practices look different from mainstream Christianity.

Please find a way to accommodate their religious practice rather than restrict it. This is a great opportunity to listen and learn as a group of commissioners, and as a county!

Sincerely,

Randy Hamm

Pastor, Vernon First Baptist Church

From: [Christy Gates](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Eloheh Indigenous Center - support letter
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 8:26:57 AM

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I am sending a copy of this letter via regular mail as well. Thank you.

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

It has come to my attention that your county has imposed permit restrictions affecting how often Eloheh Indigenous Center can host overnight gatherings on their land. Events like sweat lodges, cedar fire ceremonies, and seasonal gathering are central to their religious expression, but these practices do not fit into an assumption that religion can be expressed sufficiently during evenings and weekends.

I am writing to express my wholehearted support of Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. As a Christian who believes in religious freedom, I see this as a great opportunity to protect the religious freedom of the entire community by making space for the accommodation of Eloheh. Religious freedom must protect all faiths or else it cannot be claimed as true religious freedom at all. Indigenous spirituality must be practiced in connection to the land across long periods of time and cannot be practiced in what Christians and those of many other faiths are accustomed to – meetings that last for a few hours in a designated building or place of worship.

Randy and Edith Woodley are not only major contributors to spiritual growth through their work as authors and educators, but I would also consider them friends. I donate monthly to support their work, and I am convinced of its significance among all the other important ministries serving Oregon. I only became acquainted with the Woodleys in the past five years through a week-long visit to their farm, but they have been serving Indigenous communities as well as many others for decades. I serve with a college student ministry that works with students at hundreds of campuses across the country, and the work of Randy and Edith has been a great source of encouragement and character formation among our students.

I am happy to share further in support of the Woodleys, if you would like to contact me.

Please adjust your permit processes so that the religious practices happening at Eloheh Indigenous Center can continue without restriction.

Sincerely,

Christina L. Gates
10205 Lakeview Drive
Taylor, Michigan 48180
(219) 805-6568
christygates426@gmail.com

From: [Randy Woodley](#)
To: [Janeen Bertsche Johnson](#)
Cc: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Re: Please allow indigenous faith gatherings
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 8:44:53 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Thank You!!

On Jan 14, 2026, at 5:48 AM, Janeen Bertsche Johnson <jbjohnson@ambs.edu> wrote:

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,
I am a Mennonite pastor in Indiana serving as campus pastor of Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary. I organize a biennial conference at our seminary that draws participants from across North America. A few years ago, Randy Woodley was one of our keynote speakers. He is a respected theologian who integrates indigenous spirituality into his Christian faith.

I have watched as Randy and Edith built Eloheh Indigenous Center into a gathering place to teach people how to live in harmony with God and the land. We need their witness desperately in the midst of climate change and ecological crisis. I am writing to request that you adjust your permit restrictions to allow them and their guests to practice faith freely, able to incorporate the indigenous practices that many people observe.

As a Christian leader from a denomination that has sometimes been persecuted for our beliefs, I am grateful for government protections of religious freedom. Please extend those protections to the Eloheh Indigenous Center.

Sincerely,

Janeen Bertsche Johnson
Campus Pastor
[Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary](#)
["Rooted in the Word, Growing in Christ"](#)

From: [kvn440](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Testimony for TSP meeting 1/22/2026
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 9:12:34 AM

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I am Kevin M. Forsman. I am a Yamhill County constituent and interested party. I reside in NW McMinnville, OR. I believe the "Trail with Rail" project should be removed from the Transportation System Plan. Yamhill County can't afford it, the trail project was ended in 2021, the planning commission voted unanimously to remove it, the trail failed Oregon's farm-impact laws, millions have already been wasted-more should not be wasted, the TSP should reflect current County policy, keeping it in the TSP is unnecessary and misleading, this is administrative cleanup-not relitigation and other cities have already removed unworkable trails.

Sent from my Galaxy

From: Andrea Joy, Wiccan Clergy
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Asking you to support religious freedom by waiving normal permit restrictions for ELOLEH
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 8:09:51 AM

Spam

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One of the things made clear by the Supreme Court of the USA is that religious freedom is a well-established constitutional right, even when it conflicts with local laws. This is the case for Eloheh. Normally, permitting procedures would not allow their religious ceremonies to take place on their land. As a clergy member, I encourage you to work with them to address legitimate concerns while upholding their right to follow their long-held and consistent religious practices. To be meaningful, religious freedom must be respected.

Thank you for your hard work in your community and your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Andrea Joy Kendall, CoG

Wiccan Clergy

Covenant of the Goddess (CoG) National Interfaith Representative

Action Team Leader of the Earth-based Spirituality Action Team of Citizens' Climate Lobby

May you dance in the moonlight
and play in the sunlight
in the Spirit that connects us all!

From: Rich Brown
To: [BOC Info](#)
Cc: eloheh eagleswings@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com
Subject: Eloheh hearing February 12
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 9:16:58 AM

* Spam *

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Councilors:

Please support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. I discovered them through Fr., Richard Rohr's Center for Contemplation in Albuquerque, NM where people from many faiths gather (online and in person) to find and continue faith journeys to God/Creator.

We all need an effective God consciousness in this world. Let Eloheh continue to nurture these journeys.

Thank you!

Richard Brown
Melbourne, Florida

Sent from my iPad

From: [John Olson](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Inclusion in January 15, 2026 Board Packet
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 9:39:34 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-mxcqosd4.png](#)
[Outlook-0es0m3bx.png](#)
[Outlook-0kugq0a4.png](#)
[Outlook-fa5113ms.png](#)
[Outlook-foz2uaoa.png](#)
[Outlook-hggsf4uy.png](#)
[Outlook-pw1mmtry.png](#)
[Outlook-qmd0fv0f.png](#)
[Outlook-ypt1gsrv.png](#)
[Outlook-oe4r3lm4.png](#)
[Outlook-vvrwfmqx.png](#)
[2026.1.14 CPACE Support.pdf](#)

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Dear Commissioners and Board Staff,

On behalf of the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce, I am submitting the attached **letter of support for a countywide Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program** for inclusion in the Board of Commissioners' **January 15, 2026 meeting packet**.

The letter outlines the Chamber's perspective on C-PACE as a **voluntary, market-based financing tool** that leverages **private capital only**, uses **no public funds**, and creates **no financial liability for the county**, while supporting economic development, cost savings, and long-term competitiveness for local businesses and property owners.

Thank you for your time and for your continued leadership on issues that support Yamhill County's economic vitality.

Sincerely,

John Olson
President/CEO

McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce
319 NE 5th St. McMinnville, OR
503-472-6196

 [Book time to meet with me](#)



Convener, Catalyst, Champion

Stakeholder Members:



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1/14/2026

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners
434 NE Evans Street
McMinnville, OR 97128

Commissioners,

On behalf of the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce,
I am writing to express our support for establishing a countywide Commercial
Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program in Yamhill County.



C-PACE is a **voluntary, market-based financing tool** that allows commercial and industrial property owners to invest in building improvements that reduce operating costs, improve efficiency, and strengthen long-term asset value. Importantly, C-PACE relies entirely on **private capital**, uses **no public funds**, and creates **no financial liability or credit risk for the county**.

For local businesses, access to long-term, fixed-rate financing tied to the property — rather than the business owner — can be a powerful economic development tool. C-PACE allows property owners to pursue upgrades such as energy efficiency improvements, water conservation measures, building modernization, and resiliency investments without diverting working capital from day-to-day operations, hiring, or growth.

From a competitiveness standpoint, these investments can lower utility and maintenance costs, improve building performance, and enhance the marketability of commercial properties. This is particularly relevant for a diverse local economy like Yamhill County's, which includes agriculture, manufacturing, wineries, industrial facilities, and downtown commercial buildings. A countywide C-PACE program would help ensure property owners across these sectors have access to a flexible financing option already in use in other Oregon communities.

C-PACE participation is entirely **property-owner driven and voluntary**. Projects move forward only with owner initiative and lender consent, and repayment occurs through a special assessment on the benefited property. The assessment remains with the property upon sale, providing continuity while protecting owners' flexibility.

We also appreciate that C-PACE programs are designed to support **private investment without expanding government spending**, while encouraging reinvestment in existing buildings and infrastructure. For counties operating in a fiscally constrained environment, this approach aligns well with principles of local control, financial responsibility, and economic sustainability.

The Chamber supports continued collaboration with regional economic development partners to ensure any program implemented in Yamhill County is straightforward, transparent, and responsive to local business needs.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership on policies that support private investment, economic development, and long-term competitiveness in Yamhill County.

Sincerely,

John Olson
President & CEO
McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce

From: Steve Watson
To: [BOC Info](#)
Cc: [Randy Woodley](#)
Subject: Appeal on Behalf of Eloheh Indigenous Center
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 9:48:10 AM

Phishing Link
Spam

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Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners:

I am a Christian pastor who has benefitted immensely from the teaching and work of Randy and Edith Woodley, leaders of the Eloheh Indigenous Center. The Woodley are highly valued and respected authors and educators who have been serving indigenous communities and teaching non-indigenous Americans and religious leaders like myself how to benefit from the wisdom and heritage of their cultures.

I strongly support their appeal for religious accommodation. Indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gatherings, which can not be accomplished inside a building for an hour or two on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

American religious freedom protects all faiths, including those whose practices aren't familiar in mainstream Christianity. As a Christian minister, I am stronger for the protection of the Woodley's and the Eloheh Center's religious freedom, because I benefit from learning from their presence and I know my rights are being protected as theirs are.

Additionally, like others who respect the Woodley's work, I also hope to be able to visit their center in Oregon and bring a few other visitors with me, for one of their educational programs, bringing tourist dollars to the county.

Please robustly accommodate their religious practice rather than restricting it.

Sincerely,
Rev. Steve Watson

Senior Pastor, Reservoir Church
Cambridge, Massachusetts
2025 Advent Guide - All of Us
<<https://us01.l.antigena.com/l/tUeKlzkY6ZZ4BAK5FKd~GTF4oUKGvIIRYruYJEOr8ZKSU-dPw-UikYgLhm3Ce-QGim-PUGl~MmoeLsX8Y~VmS~4KuedNQpPQunlpGikgAvJs3QiuW26kDu~JXqwcUlni0dShy-qZoisE0fvyYVuhzXpH0DWDYm0GS5XmwxdW1zKJVRg5yZ>>
<http://www.reservoirchurch.org/>

From: [Steve Scott](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Cc: [Patty Herzog](#)
Subject: LETTER OF SUPPORT: CPACE
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 9:51:22 AM
Attachments: [CPACE Letter of Support.docx](#)

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Good morning,

Unfortunately, I am not available to attend the meeting January 15th. I wanted to send the attached letter of support in advance of that meeting. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information in an effort to support this effort.

Thank you

Steve

Steve Scott | Vice President, McMinnville Properties & Twin Towers, LLC

[500 NE Captain Michael King Smith Way | McMinnville, OR](#)

[503.781.2975](#)

City of McMinnville
230 NE Second Street
McMinnville, OR 97128

Re: Support for Establishing a CPACE Program in McMinnville

To Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

As a business committed to Yamhill County's long-term economic vitality, we are reaching out to express our strong support for the creation of a CPACE program within the county.

Our community continues to grow, diversify, and modernize, and CPACE represents a practical, business-friendly tool that can help accelerate that progress. Access to long-term, property-based financing would enable commercial property owners to move forward with improvements that enhance building performance, reduce operating costs, and strengthen the resilience of our local business infrastructure.

A CPACE program would remove that barrier. It leverages private capital, requires no financial risk from the City, and supports reinvestment in the very buildings that anchor our commercial districts. Communities across Oregon have already demonstrated that CPACE can be a catalyst for redevelopment, job creation, and long-term competitiveness. There is no reason Yamhill County should be left behind.

From our perspective, CPACE aligns directly with the values that define Yamhill County's economic identity: practical innovation, responsible growth, and a strong partnership between the public and private sectors. Providing businesses with more flexible financing options strengthens our ability to reinvest locally, attract new development, and ensures that McMinnville remains a vibrant and economically resilient community.

We appreciate MEDP's leadership in exploring this opportunity and encouraging the County to move forward with establishing a CPACE program. It is a smart, pro-business step that will support both current and future investment in Yamhill County.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to supporting local businesses.

Sincerely,

Steve Scott

Vice President, McMinnville Properties & Twin Towers
490 NE Captain Michael King Smith Way
McMinnville, OR 97128

From: [Allie Ryan](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Eloheh Indigenous Center appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 10:18:11 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

Randy and Edith are community leaders, educators, and responsible stewards of the land and resources of Yamhill County. They are extremely generous in sharing their wisdom, knowledge, and traditions.

Indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering which is inhibited by new overnight gathering permit restrictions. It is critical that their right to freely practice their indigenous spirituality be protected and affirmed.

The right to freedom of religious practice is one that I hold very dear as an American and it is a right that I insist be extended to all.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Kindly,

Allie Ryan

From: [Michelle Trachy](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Save the Yamhelas Westsider Trail!
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 10:25:23 AM

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

As you consider removing the Yamhelas Westsider Trail from the Transportation System Plan, I would like you to reflect on the many benefits our county can reap from such an asset.

SAFETY

We all know that Highway 47 is not safe for pedestrians and cyclists. The trail would provide a safe and enjoyable space for non motorized traffic and ebikes to travel between McMinnville, Carlton, Yamhill and Gaston, without impeding traffic on the highway.

UTILITIES

If for no other reason it is worth protecting the corridor for future utility needs. Carlton and Yamhill already have water shortages and rural communities need access to broadband. The corridor would provide space for these and other utilities without having to condemn private land for easements.

Rail trails are common in rural settings across the country and even around the world. The nearby Banks-Vernonia trail is a great example of a trail through rural farmlands. It has been an economic boon to the communities without adverse impacts to adjacent farms. There are no homeless camps, crime, litter or trespassing along the trail. It is used by local residents as well as being a destination for more distant users.

The Land Use Board of Appeals has NOT deemed the trail “unworkable”. They merely advised that there is more work to be done to mitigate impact to farmers. We CAN do this! Let’s work together to find a solution.

Sincerely,
Michelle Trachy
1277 SW Darci Dr
McMinnville, OR

January 14, 2026

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners
434 NE Evans Street
McMinnville, OR 97128
bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov

Subject: Support for a Countywide CPACE Program

Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of **McMinnville Water and Light** to express support for establishing a **countywide Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) program** in Yamhill County. While McMinnville Water and Light is the city electric utility, we have a significant presence in the county serving over 30% of the population.

A CPACE program would provide an important financing tool for business. As an electric provider within the county, for decades MWL has been working to provide incentives for energy efficiency improvements for business in our service area. These improvements help reduce operating costs and improve long-term building performance, while preserving working capital for day-to-day business needs. The long-term, property-based financing structure makes projects feasible that might otherwise be delayed or not pursued.

We are familiar with CPACE and have seen it used effectively in other Oregon communities. CPACE has helped commercial property owners move forward with energy and building upgrades that strengthen businesses, improve resiliency, and enhance property values. The program leverages private capital and does not place financial risk on the county, while delivering measurable benefits to property owners and tenants.

From an industry perspective, a countywide CPACE program would support reinvestment across Yamhill County's commercial and industrial properties. It would encourage modernization of facilities, improve competitiveness, and support long-term economic vitality by lowering energy costs and supporting sustainable growth.

Thank you for considering a countywide CPACE program and for your leadership on policies that support local businesses.

Sincerely,



John C. Dietz
General Manager

From: Frankie Emrick
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Religious freedom
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 2:26:15 PM

Spam

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Dear Board of Commissioners,

As a born Oregonian, I support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

Indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering — it cannot be practiced in a single building for a single hour on a single day.

The Woodleys at Eloheh Indigenous Center are respected educators and authors who have served Indigenous communities for over 30 years. I have personally read and sat with their materials, gleaning many lessons as a Christian myself.

Our first amendment right to religious freedom should protect all faiths, especially those of our First Nations, whose practices might look different from mainstream Christianity.

I petition you to find a way to accommodate their religious practice rather than restrict it in Yamhill County.

Frank P. Emrick III

From: Margaret Garrett
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Eloheh Indigenous Center Appeal
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 12:54:42 PM

* Spam *

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I am writing to you in support of Randy and Edith Woodley's appeal to your Board in regards to your ruling on permit restrictions on hosting overnight gatherings. These restrictions make many of the traditional ceremonies nearly impossible to hold on their own land. Indigenous religious does not look like church on Sunday morning. Freedom to practice one's religion is a fundamental protection afforded in the US Constitution. Religious freedom should protect all faiths, including those whose practices look different from mainstream Christianity. The Woodley's are respected educators and authors who have served the indigenous community for over thirty years. I support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation in this matter.

Thank you,
Margaret Garrett

From: [Timothy Wade](#)
To: [BOC Info](#)
Subject: Support for County-wide CPACE Program
Date: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 3:49:15 PM

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Yamhill County Board of Commissioners
434 NE Evans Street
McMinnville, OR 97128

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a Yamhill County business owner to express my support for the County's consideration of a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) program.

Like many local property owners, I want to make responsible investments in energy efficiency and building performance. In practice, however, those upgrades often come with higher upfront costs that compete with other capital needs of running and growing a business. CPACE is compelling because it bridges that gap—it allows owners to do the right thing environmentally while remaining financially disciplined.

I own and operate warehouse and commercial space, and programs like CPACE would directly influence my willingness to reinvest in those facilities. Energy upgrades, modern HVAC systems, and building improvements are not just about lowering my own operating costs; they have real downstream impacts. When owners reinvest, tenants benefit from more efficient, functional spaces, which improves their productivity, lowers their overhead, and ultimately supports stronger business outcomes. That kind of reinvestment has clear knock-on economic development effects across the county.

What is especially attractive about CPACE is that it uses private capital, is repaid through the property, and does not place financial risk on the County. Other Oregon communities have demonstrated that CPACE can be implemented responsibly while accelerating upgrades that otherwise remain deferred for years. It is a practical, market-based tool that aligns incentives rather than relying on mandates.

A countywide CPACE program would send an important signal that Yamhill County supports reinvestment in its existing commercial and industrial building stock. Over time, that translates into more competitive businesses, lower energy consumption, higher-quality facilities, and a stronger local economy.

Thank you for considering this program and for your continued leadership in supporting policies that help local businesses reinvest, modernize, and grow.

Sincerely,

Tim Wade
Managing Member
Pastiche Properties
Vine & Alpine, LLC
Alpine Hospitality, LLC

timwikoff@twwrealestate.com
503-217-4123