



UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Steve McClure, Commissioner
Jack Howard, Commissioner
Donna Beverage, Commissioner

1106 K Avenue

La Grande, OR 97850

PHONE (541)963-1001

FAX (541)963-1079

TTY 1-800-735-1232

November 14, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I've been asked to write a letter describing the role Professor Zehr has played in the last year in helping on several crucial economic development issues. In doing so, I am especially thinking of these traits: recognizing his work ethic, skills, and volunteer services here in Union County. In particular, the time dedicated to studying our public assets has been invaluable: our parks, our airport (including the desirability of a port district), and our golf course.

I first became aware of Wilson's efforts for Eastern Oregon University's community engagement, appropriately, through an EOU student, and then as a volunteer who was willing and able to troubleshoot a range of technical communication issues regarding our public golf course. I found his manner to be helpful and his interest genuine. Additionally, Professor Zehr's continuing offers to help research pivotal issues, such as poverty, with community group involvement and his own expertise in policy planning, is a chance to integrate not only great data, which is a chief concern to me as a County Commissioner, but better communication with this area's most knowledgeable professionals: Union County government has desperately needed this kind of "think tank" help.

Professor Zehr has been willing to offer his help and the chance for "hands-on" solutions, about what the scope of local problems are, and how relatively equipped we are to deal with short-term needs. He's practical, but keeps sight of the possible. To my great satisfaction, I've seen him demonstrate the capacity, determination and resourcefulness in solutions. Because of limited resources, his ability to help has also been important in controlling costs while still getting good results.

Union County has been an interesting, and to me inspiring, example of how quickly we have needed academic solutions to immediate economic needs. Professor Wilson Zehr's willingness and creativity to help brings my highest recommendation.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further information or details.

Sincerely,

Jack Howard
Union County Commissioner