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900 Court St. NE,  
Salem, Oregon 97301

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**Press Contact:** Hazel Tyliniski, [Hazel.Tyliniski@OregonLegislature.gov](mailto:Hazel.Tyliniski@OregonLegislature.gov)

## Speaker Rayfield Visits Willamette Valley Communities as Legislators Gear Up for February Short Session

*Rep. Elmer hosts tour of McMinnville, Carlton, Sheridan, Willamina communities' industries, job readiness, critical infrastructure projects*

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, House Speaker Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) joined Representative Lucetta Elmer (R - McMinnville) to speak with local leaders, get updates on state-funded infrastructure projects and programming, and learn about the valley's strong local industries. Tour stops include Huddleston Pond, Hampton Lumber Mill, and The Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education future site, slated to provide career training and opportunities to rural students interested in fire science, trucking, mechanics, manufacturing technology, and sustainable farming and agriculture.

“After a busy legislative session, it’s great to get out into Oregon communities around the state to see the impacts of our strategic investments firsthand,” **said Speaker Rayfield**. “We appreciate Representative Elmer taking the time to show us around the heart of Oregon’s world-renowned wine country and for all of her hard work fighting for projects, policy, and investments that directly benefit her constituents. Throughout fall legislative days and in the upcoming 2024 session, we’ll keep making progress to ensure that Oregonians are seeing the outcomes of our good governance.”

During the 2023 legislative session, Democrat and Republican legislators worked together to build and deliver on a series of state-wide budget packages to help all Oregonians, including the Drought and Water Security and Rural Infrastructure and Economic Development packages. In

addition to these investments, the Legislature provided essential funding to ensure shovel-ready infrastructure revitalization projects could move forward throughout Oregon.

“I appreciate the support Speaker Rayfield has shown for House District 24’s efforts to bolster housing, train the next generation, and empower our local industries,” **said Representative Elmer**. “We are committed to continuing this partnership with local industry leaders and community members who know the most about the resources, services, and funding they need to be successful in the coming session.”

During the visit, legislative and local leaders shared their perspective on Oregon’s ongoing effort to get people housed and keep housing prices down, as well as increasing access to and training for family wage jobs, strengthening our economy, and reinforcing our rural and urban transportation and infrastructure systems.

Photos from the day are linked [here](#).

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