



June 9, 2024

Subject: The Vital Role of Hoodland Library in Our Community

Dear Clackamas County Board,

Mount Hood Livability Coalition is writing to express our support for Hoodland library. Our library supports almost 2000 active, local residents, just under 10% being children. The library is a hub of services that are vital to the local community ^{1,2}.

1. Beyond Books: A Hub of Learning and Connection

- Hoodland library serves more than books. It offers a diverse range of resources, including access to high-speed internet, educational programs, and community events.

2. Social and Cultural Anchor

- Our library serves as a gathering place—a haven where neighbors meet, exchange ideas, and build relationships. It's where children attend storytime, teens collaborate on projects, and seniors engage in book clubs.

3. Economic Opportunities

- Reliable internet access is essential. Our library bridges the digital divide, providing a lifeline for job seekers, freelancers, and small business owners.

Unlike our other rural libraries, Hoodland Library pays rent for its library space out of its District Revenue because the County never provided the Hoodland Service Area with a County funded permanent home. This severely impacts the ability of the library to provide the services needed for the local community.

We ask you to fully fund the library rent for the next 5 years, while a permanent home can be found.

Mount Hood Livability Coalition
Board of Directors

¹ [For Rural Communities, It's More than Just a Library | USDA](<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2014/11/03/rural-communities-its-more-just-library>)

² [Research & Policy Brief: Rural Libraries & Social Wellbeing](<https://rurallibraries.org/research-policy-brief/>)