



City of Salmon

February 27, 2026

Dear Representative Simpson:

As Mayor of Salmon, I am writing in strong support of Steele Memorial Medical Center's proposed Rehabilitation Facility Modernization project—a proposed capital investment to expand and modernize rehabilitation services and facilities so rural residents can recover close to home with greater safety, privacy, and timely access. As a city, we see firsthand how travel distance and seasonal road conditions can turn routine follow-up care into a major hardship for families.

Salmon and the surrounding communities in Lemhi County are geographically isolated communities in central Idaho. Our residents face long travel distances, challenging mountain routes, and winter weather that can quickly turn routine medical travel into a significant hardship. In this rural context, access to rehabilitation is not an optional add-on to healthcare—it is a core service that supports recovery after injury or surgery, helps older adults maintain independence, and keeps working families healthy and on the job.

Steele Memorial Medical Center is essential rural infrastructure for our community and for the region it serves. Yet the current rehabilitation footprint was designed for a much smaller demand and no longer reflects present-day needs. This project will modernize and reconfigure the rehabilitation space to increase capacity, improve patient flow and throughput, strengthen ADA accessibility and safety for mobility-limited patients, and enhance patient privacy and dignity through more appropriate treatment areas. These improvements will reduce care delays and minimize the need for residents to travel long distances for services that should be available locally.

This investment will also support the vitality and resilience of Salmon. Timely access to local rehabilitation helps residents recover faster, return to work sooner, and remain active in their families and community. It reduces preventable travel to distant facilities, keeps healthcare dollars local, and strengthens the community's ability to attract and retain a stable workforce—an ongoing challenge for rural towns.

The City of Salmon strongly supports this project and appreciates your consideration of this request. Thank you for your continued leadership and advocacy for rural Idaho communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Todd Nelson
Mayor, City of Salmon
(208) 756-3214
mayor@cityofsalmon.com



City of Salmon

February 27, 2026

Dear Representative Simpson:

As City Administrator for the City of Salmon, I am writing to express strong support for Steele Memorial Medical Center's proposed Rehabilitation Facility Modernization project to expand and modernize rehabilitation space so rural residents can access recovery care close to home with improved safety, privacy, and timely access.

In our rural region, access to healthcare is shaped by long travel distances, limited transportation options, and seasonal weather that can make repeated trips for routine services difficult and costly. While rehabilitation services are available through more than one provider in the Salmon area, capacity and scheduling limitations—especially for patients with mobility challenges, post-operative restrictions, or complex recovery needs—can create delays and increase travel burdens. For many households, traveling out of the area for therapy means additional time away from work, increased expenses, and missed appointments that can interfere with recovery.

Steele Memorial Medical Center plays a central role in the local healthcare ecosystem and is essential community infrastructure in times of severe weather, road closures, and other disruptions. The hospital's rehabilitation footprint was designed for earlier demand and no longer matches current needs for safe circulation, appropriate treatment space, and patient privacy. This project will modernize and reconfigure the rehabilitation area to improve patient flow and throughput, strengthen ADA accessibility and safety, and enhance patient privacy and dignity through more appropriate evaluation and treatment spaces. These improvements will reduce barriers to care for rural residents and help ensure patients can complete therapy plans as prescribed.

This investment also supports community stability and economic resilience. Timely local rehabilitation helps residents recover safely, return to work sooner, and remain independent—benefits that matter in a rural community where workforce shortages and long-distance access challenges are persistent realities. Strengthening local rehabilitation capacity reduces unnecessary travel for care and supports the long-term vitality of Salmon and the surrounding region.

The City of Salmon supports this proposed project and appreciates your consideration of this request. Thank you for your continued advocacy for rural Idaho communities. Please feel free to contact me if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Breann Green
City Administrator
City of Salmon
208-756-3214
bgreen@cityofsalmon.com

February 27, 2026

Dear Representative Simpson:

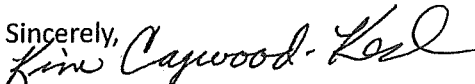
As a Lemhi County Commissioner, I am writing to express strong support for Steele Memorial Medical Center's proposed Rehabilitation Facility Modernization project—a proposed capital investment to expand and modernize rehabilitation space so rural residents can receive essential recovery care close to home.

Lemhi County is a rural, high-distance region where geography, weather, and limited transportation options make access to healthcare fundamentally different than in urban areas. For many families in our county and surrounding rural communities, options can be limited, and many residents face long travel and constrained appointment availability for therapy services. When rehabilitation capacity is constrained, rural patients face longer delays, more travel over mountain passes, and higher personal costs—burdens that can directly affect recovery and independence for older adults, working families, and patients returning home after injury, surgery, or illness.

Steele Memorial Medical Center is our local hospital and it is critical community infrastructure and a cornerstone of community resilience. However, the current rehabilitation footprint dates to the original facility design and no longer matches today's demand. This modernization will right-size capacity and improve care delivery by increasing usable treatment space, strengthening patient privacy and dignity, improving ADA accessibility and safety for mobility-limited patients, and enhancing patient flow and throughput. These upgrades will help ensure therapy is delivered in appropriate clinical settings—reducing reliance on shared or overflow spaces and supporting timely care for rural residents who cannot easily travel elsewhere.

Reliable local rehabilitation services strengthen our rural economy and quality of life. When patients can access therapy promptly, they are more likely to recover safely, remain independent, and return to work and daily activities sooner. This project also helps reduce avoidable long-distance trips for care, keeping services local and supporting continuity for patients who would otherwise experience disruptions in treatment.

Lemhi County strongly supports this project as a high-impact, community-serving capital investment that directly addresses rural access barriers and improves safety and dignity for patients. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to rural Idaho communities. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,


Kim Caywood Kesl

Lemhi County Commissioner

(208) 940-1546

kimncp@yahoo.com

February 27, 2026

Dear Representative Simpson:

As Exalted Ruler of the Salmon Elks Lodge, I am writing to express strong support for Steele Memorial Medical Center's proposed Rehabilitation Facility Modernization project to expand and modernize rehabilitation space so rural residents can recover close to home with improved safety, privacy, and timely access.

The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has a long-standing commitment to helping communities strengthen rehabilitation services and support independence for those facing injury, illness, and mobility challenges. In rural Idaho, that mission is especially important. Distance, terrain, and winter travel conditions create real barriers to completing therapy and following through on recovery plans. When rehabilitation is not readily accessible, patients are more likely to experience delayed recovery, loss of function, and avoidable complications—particularly older adults and those recovering after surgery or serious injury.

We are proud that Steele Memorial Medical Center has been awarded an Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Grant to help advance rehabilitation services for this rural region. That investment reflects confidence in Steele Memorial's ability to deliver meaningful impact for Lemhi County and surrounding communities. This proposed facility modernization builds on that momentum by strengthening the physical capacity and care environment needed to meet growing demand—improving patient flow and throughput, enhancing ADA accessibility and safety, and increasing privacy and dignity through more appropriate evaluation and treatment spaces. As local Elks members, we have seen how well-placed rehabilitation investments can translate into real, practical gains for rural families.

This project represents a practical, community-serving capital improvement that will help ensure rural residents can receive the therapy they need without the hardship and expense of repeated long-distance travel. It will support stronger recovery, greater independence, and improved quality of life—outcomes that align closely with the Elks' rehabilitation mission and our shared commitment to serving this community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued advocacy on behalf of rural Idaho communities. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information in support of this request.

Sincerely,


Amber Stark

Exalted Ruler

Salmon Elks Lodge

(208) 550-5383

February 27, 2026

Dear Representative Simpson:

As Lemhi County's Emergency Management Coordinator, I am writing to express strong support for Steele Memorial Medical Center's proposed Rehabilitation Facility Modernization project to expand and modernize rehabilitation space so rural residents can recover close to home with improved safety, privacy, and timely access.

In a frontier county like Lemhi, healthcare is inseparable from emergency preparedness and community resilience. When geography, weather, and long distances limit access to services, our local hospital becomes essential infrastructure—especially during winter storms, wildfire seasons, roadway closures, and other incidents that can disrupt travel. In these conditions, maintaining reliable access to rehabilitation locally is critical to keeping residents safe and supporting community recovery. Reducing avoidable travel for ongoing therapy also helps keep roads safer and preserves limited local response capacity during high-impact events.

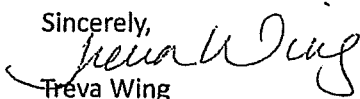
Timely rehabilitation helps residents regain mobility and function after injury, surgery, illness, and emergency events, reducing complications that can lead to preventable readmissions or extended disability. For older adults and mobility-limited patients, delayed or interrupted therapy can result in rapid decline. When patients are forced to travel long distances for routine therapy, missed appointments become more likely—particularly during hazardous weather—placing added strain on families and increasing health risks.

Steele Memorial's current rehabilitation footprint was designed for a smaller demand and no longer matches present-day needs. This proposed modernization will right-size capacity and improve care delivery by strengthening patient privacy and dignity, improving ADA accessibility and safety for mobility-limited patients, and enhancing patient flow and throughput. These upgrades will reduce barriers to care and support appropriate treatment settings for rural residents who cannot easily seek services elsewhere.

From an emergency management standpoint, this investment strengthens the county's ability to recover from injuries and maintain independence following adverse events. It supports continuity of local services, reduces unnecessary travel during hazardous conditions, and reinforces Steele Memorial Medical Center's role as a critical resource for our community.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued advocacy for rural Idaho communities. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information in support of this request.

Sincerely,



Treva Wing

Emergency Management Coordinator

Lemhi County

(208) 742-1715

twing@lemhicountyidaho.org