

What Stakeholders in Metro Region Are Saying About the Legislation:

"At Oregon Food Bank, we believe no one should be hungry," said **Susannah Morgan, Oregon Food Bank CEO**. "To that end, we work to address the need for food assistance today *and* the root causes of hunger – including unequal access to food and other vital resources. With this funding, we will increase our impact through investments in the Ontario Community Food Center and the Columbia Gorge Food Bank. Thanks to the leadership and support from Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, we continue to move toward a future with hunger-free communities."

"This bill includes many important investments to help us urgently address the housing crisis in Oregon," said **Ivory N. Mathews, Executive Director of Home Forward, the housing authority for Multnomah County**. "We are grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their on-going support of affordable housing, especially during this time of unprecedented construction cost increases and labor shortages, which make these projects even harder to build for our low income neighbors. This funding commitment will help to provide 94 affordable rental homes in Troutdale for low-income singles and families for generations to come."

"I'm thankful to Senators Wyden and Merkley for their tremendous support of our year-round shelter" said **Mayor Beaty**. "This asset will be instrumental in helping our most vulnerable community members get the support and resources they need to transition into stable housing."

"The City of Sherwood would like to thank Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley for their support of the Tonquin Employment Area Access Project. Economic Development and creating new traded sector jobs is a top priority of the City Council and their critical support is important to the future of our community," said **Mayor Keith Mays**.

"The condor is a symbol of what the Pacific Northwest can be; a promise based on restoration, on tribal ownership and leadership, on taking action to undo centuries of environmental harm. As one of only four condor breeding facilities in the country, the Oregon Zoo has for 19 years played a critical role in saving this species from the brink of extinction. This Interior Appropriations bill invests in the future of this iconic bird and its eventual restoration to its historic Oregon range. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden's work means that the Oregon Zoo will continue to be a leader in condor conservation," said **Lynn Peterson, Oregon Metro Council President**.

"This bill includes key investments in proven solutions we know work," said **Central City Concern President and CEO Dr. Andy Mendenhall**. "We know from decades of experience that combining safe, stable housing with wraparound services, comprehensive healthcare and employment opportunities are proven solutions. And we have the data to back it up. The COVID-19 pandemic has taken an extraordinary toll on our most vulnerable neighbors. We are especially grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden who have consistently supported CCC's model, including our Recuperative Care Program and River Haven, both of which are bringing

the road to recovery and stable housing within reach of those most impacted and advancing our community's goals of ending homelessness and achieving health equity.”

"Proud Ground is excited about this support to expand homeownership opportunities to black, indigenous people of color who have been left behind in the housing market. These funds would provide desperately needed funding to make more homes available to hard working families. We are deeply grateful to Senators Wyden and Merkley for their leadership and understanding of the impact of racial disparities in homeownership in Oregon. The stabilization and generational wealth achieved with these funds are life changing, breaking the cycle of poverty and allowing families to thrive while at the same time benefitted the whole community by maintaining permanent affordability of every unit using the community land trust model," **said Diane Linn, Executive Director, Proud Ground, servicing the Portland Metro area and communities around the State of Oregon.**

“We are extremely grateful to have Senators Merkley and Wyden as strong champions of our sueño to build La Plaza Esperanza,” **said Latino Network Executive Director Tony DeFalco.** “The facility will fill a gap in culturally specific services for the rapidly-growing Latino population in the Portland metro region and will provide a gathering place to celebrate, learn and build community. La Plaza Esperanza will expand the impact and reach of Latino Network as a trusted resource for the region’s Latino community. An investment from this bill will allow our organization to increase capacity of our programs in areas of high need including mental health, immigration navigation and early learning.”

"Columbia Economic Team and OMIC R&D point out once again that Oregon’s federal delegation clearly gets, and supports, the immense value of an innovative, advanced, and additive manufacturing center of excellence here in Columbia County. Around the axis of OMIC R&D, the Columbia County Advanced and Additive Manufacturing Small Business Incubator will join the new OMIC Additive Manufacturing Center and OMIC/PCC Training Center. This strategic alignment will leverage a powerful combination of global manufacturing expertise, our new local SBDC/SBA small business services, and our multi-dimensional regional workforce coalition -- reducing barriers-to-entry for small, entrepreneurial, start-up and disadvantaged makers/manufacturers in accessing the world’s best-in-class manufacturing technology at OMIC R&D. Importantly, this community-initiated project funding will ensure that the sophisticated planning and design of the small business incubator is in concert with OMIC R&D, and global, standards,” **said Craig Campbell, Executive Director, OMIC R&D and Paul Vogel, Executive Director, Columbia Economic Team.**

"PSU is honored to be considered for federal investment. We are grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their support and welcome the opportunity to continue this critical research and help our community partners better understand the impacts of microplastics across our ocean, freshwater and terrestrial environments," **said Kevin Neely, Portland State University.**

“The YouthLine is all about empowering teens and young adults to support their peers struggling with the challenges of growing up,” **said Dwight Holton, CEO of Lines for Life.** “And

we know those challenges are greater now than ever before. Sen Wyden and Sen Merkley have been national leaders in the work of reaching young people and supporting their mental health. The national expansion will directly address the ongoing mental health crisis youth are experiencing across the country and help create a brighter future for generations to come.”

“This generous award of planning dollars will support the environmental review, engineering requirements, architectural design and more that moves **lifempowered** forward in our building of a 10,000 square foot, fully accessible Empowerment Center, benefitting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Columbia County. We are so excited to be able to offer this resource to those in our community with IDD, allowing them to thrive,” said **Cindy Stockton, Executive Director, LifeEmpowered.**

“We are grateful for the partnership of Senators Wyden and Merkley to help us protect our most vulnerable community members, our children. This funding will assist us in increasing high quality service and the documentation needed to bring justice to exploited children and help fight this national crisis,” **said St. Helens City Councilor, Jessica Chilton.**

“Children’s Center is honored to be included in this process and we are excited for the potential this project has to create a community-wide collaboration of people committed to preventing child abuse and neglect. We are grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their advocacy and for supporting this investment in stronger, safer futures for children and families in Clackamas County,” **said Karen Rush, Executive Director, Children’s Center.**

“Scappoose fire is thrilled that our appropriations request for \$198,000 to develop a high school workforce development program has cleared another step. These funds will establish a collaborative program with the Scappoose High School, Portland Community College and Oregon’s Institute of Technology. We will provide High School students a unique opportunity to learn about the fire service, acquire college credit and certificates specific to emergency services; including, aviation (Uncrewed Aircraft (UAS) pilot certificates) and experience with public safety robotics. Our goal is to foster a learning environment that will help our students, community and our state as the UAS industry continues to rapidly expand in industry and public safety,” **said Jeff Pricher, Scappoose Fire, Fire Chief.**

“This bill prioritizes vulnerable children in our community, especially those at high risk of malnutrition,” **said Mishelle Rudzinski, Co-Founder and Executive Director of SPOON.** “We are so pleased that Senators Merkley and Wyden recognize the urgent nutrition and feeding needs of children in Oregon who have experienced trauma, including children in foster care and those who are susceptible to food insecurity.”

“This bill would make vital investments in the future of Oregon's 950,000 people with disabilities,” **said Jake Cornett, Executive Director & CEO of Disability Rights Oregon and Board Member of the National Disability Rights Network.** “We are especially grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for prioritizing Disability Rights Oregon as we work to create a society in which persons with disabilities have equal opportunity, full participation, and the

ability to exercise meaningful choice. With thousands learning to cope with long-COVID symptoms, this work has never been more important and the funding will expand and strengthen services we provide Oregonians."

###