

What Stakeholders in Willamette Valley Are Saying About the Legislation:

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand small cities such as Carlton have limited financial resources to repair and replace failing infrastructure. Their support of our financial assistance request to help replace our 100-year-old failing sewer mainline, gives our families hope of relief from higher utility bills as well as a safer, more efficient, and stable infrastructure,” **said Linda Watkins, Mayor of City of Carlton.**

“This vital funding support will help Falls City replace many of the old Asbestos Cement water lines that impact our public safety every time they break. Due to their old and brittle condition, we run the risk of contamination to the public each time they fail. In addition, being able to improve the intake system at the source will greatly extend the life of the sand filters and the Water Treatment Plant overall. Finally, the ability to improve our billing system through wireless metering, will help our limited staff manage our community’s customer accounts more efficiently,” **said AJ Foscoli City Manager, Falls City.**

“As our small community grows, we find our home becoming an increasingly popular tourist destination as well as an important link in the Willamette Valley north-south traffic corridor. West Main Street is one of the major entries to our city, but the existing pavement has become severely degraded due to heavy traffic use and a small city budget that struggles to cover major repair costs. We appreciate that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand helping rural communities such as Carlton help themselves while also building a path to improving our economy is what our government was meant to do,” **said Linda Watkin, Mayor of City of Carlton.**

“These federal dollars are coming at a good time. The natural resources and people of the Santiam Canyon have suffered greatly in the wake of the 2020 wildfires. Using these funds to help build a trail that can be both enjoyed by locals and enhance recreational tourism in the region will continue to support this community's economic recovery. We thank our federal delegation for investing these dollars in the people of the Canyon,” **said Commissioner Kevin Cameron.**

“In the two years since the Labor Day fires of 2020, the Santiam Canyon community has worked to rebuild from the devastating fires that burned down much of one of Oregon’s great natural treasures, destroying not only thousands of acres of woodland but hundreds of homes and redirecting the lives of thousands. The people of the Canyon have faced that trauma, and the long rebuild that followed, with enormous courage and resiliency. Along with Oregon Housing and Community Services, Santiam Hospital, Marion County, and our service partners, we have been honored to do our part in helping rebuild the Canyon community. Still, nearly two years later, many families remain homeless from those fires. We have sheltered many in a motel we were able to purchase and now renovate with previous Congressionally Directed community funds. And now we will be able to purchase transitional housing facilities with this latest award, to help some of those still homeless families transition back to self-sufficiency. We’re very grateful for the tireless work of Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley in

helping us rebuild so much of what was destroyed nearly two years ago,” **said Jimmy Jones, Executive Director of Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency.**

“Everyday our Indigenous communities, known as just farmworkers to many, survive the many oppressing conditions that make access to a healthful and culturally rich life difficult. At Anahuac, our vision is for our communities to have a longstanding space to maintain ancestral relationships with their traditional agriculture and foods, culinary and cultural arts, traditional wellness practices and Indigenous languages. Receiving both the Agriculture Community Facilities and Economic Development Initiative grants immensely fortifies our foundation on our newly accessed certified organic farmland to secure proposed infrastructure, facilities and equipment to create a sustainable educational space to maintain our Indigenous cultures and also develop facilities to wash, store, process, package and display our traditional foods such as our native *milpa* (corn, beans and squash) so they can be redistributed back to our community. Thank you Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and all those who made it possible for advocating for our Indigenous communities and so generously supporting the Anahuac Program of Capaces Leadership Institute,” **said Jaime Arredondo, Executive Director at Capaces Leadership Institute.**

“This bill includes important investments to train the next generation of healthcare professionals and provide continuing education to those currently in the field,” **said Dr. Stephanie Bulger, President of Lane Community College.** “We are incredibly grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their support of a state-of-the-art simulation lab at LCC that will open additional partnerships with healthcare providers to run simulations for currently practicing professionals and run simulations with students and professionals simultaneously, improving training opportunities throughout the region without diminishing available hospital space for training. Simulation labs enhance every aspect of training across all health professions and provide significantly improved educational experiences that better prepare trainees for ‘real-life,’ leading to improved patient outcomes.”

“The funding for this request is an exciting step forward for the Barbara Roberts Career Technical Education Center Auto Tech career pathway strand. With this funding, we will be able to bring state-of-the-art simulators, truck driving, and heavy equipment operation training, to the rural students of West Yamhill County. These simulators come pre-programmed with a curriculum that provides the ability to change weather conditions, truck/vehicle configurations, and focus on specific skill sets such as braking, shifting, parking, coupling/decoupling, as well as preparation for the CDL test,” **said Dorie Vickery, Ed.D, Superintendent of Sheridan School District.** “Part of what makes Career Technical Education vital to these career pathways is the training received is identical to what is offered in a professional environment. Bringing these technologies to our rural community would not be possible without the support provided through the Congressionally Directed Model.”

“This bill provides a vital investment to address the critical needs of unhoused youth and families in rural Lane County,” **said Craig Opperman, President and CEO of Looking Glass Community Services.** “This appropriation by Senators Merkley and Wyden is another example

of their advocacy and support for marginalized and under-served youth. The needs of unhoused youth are growing in our rural communities. These funds will help provide life-saving food, clothing, mental health/substance abuse treatment, education and housing assistance. The community desperately needs these resources. We are thankful for the leadership of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden in helping our vulnerable youth and families.”

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