

“This funding is very much welcomed and critical for Arnold Irrigation District to complete its canal modernization. This project investment will secure water supply to our farmers after four consecutive years of having to shut down our irrigation season at the end of July, and permanently protect water instream for the Deschutes River and habitat for many species. We appreciate Senator Merkley’s continued support for this and other projects that are ‘win-win’ and provide water to agriculture and our streams in the Deschutes Basin,” **said Steve Johnson, District Manager of Arnold Irrigation District.**

“Recent multi-year drought in the Deschutes Basin again reminds us that investments are needed to ensure our water facilities are as efficient as possible. The funding in this bill will allow North Unit Irrigation District to begin construction of an ambitious piping project that will reduce water losses and increase water supply available for delivery to farms and ranches in the District. We appreciate Senator Merkley’s continued support of funding for this and other projects that improve water management in the Deschutes Basin,” **said Josh Bailey, District Manager of North Unit Irrigation District.**

“The CyberMill has proved a successful model in frontier communities for addressing the need of equitable access to technology, meeting spaces, and broadband. This support will help replicate this success in additional underrepresented populations in Grant County increasing access to telehealth, workforce development, education and addressing social determinants of health in our communities,” **said Didgette McCracken, OSU Grant County Open Campus and Agriculture Faculty.**

"South Lane Mental Health is a community mental health organization whose mission is to restore hope and renew life through compassionate mental health care services, support, and advocacy. We are grateful that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand that the mental health crisis affecting our nation was exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, and even more so for those low-income individuals living in rural areas who often cannot afford mental health care.

“SLMH focusses our spending on client care, leaving little to no financial resources for much needed repairs to facilities. Funding for our facility repairs will assist us in continuing to provide mental health therapy for low-income folks in our rural service area of Lane County, Oregon; regardless of their ability to pay for services, a tradition we have kept since our inception in 1988,” **said Norma Barton, South Lane Medical Health Director of Development and Community Relations.**