

## **What Community Leaders on Oregon's Coast Are Saying About The legislation:**

“Senators Merkley and Wyden have provided a tremendous holiday gift to our community, and a remarkable service to the Nehalem Bay Health District. This incredible financial and moral support will advance construction of a new, state-of-the-art health center and pharmacy able to serve everyone in our community. The new facility we are planning will double existing clinic space, allowing for future growth, as well as room for specialty care such as cardiology, pediatrics and dental. We know that rural Oregon suffers from lack of health care access and lack of services, but the support of Oregon’s senators permits a huge leap forward that will address both concerns in north Tillamook County,” **said Marc C. Johnson, President, Nehalem Bay Health District, Wheeler, Oregon.**

"This is exciting news for Lincoln County! Updating our radio system will enhance public safety communications in Lincoln County. This will keep our first responders, citizens and visitors safer during disasters, such as the 2020 Echo Mountain Wildfire, and also during day-to-day operations. Thank you so much to Senators Merkley and Wyden for looking out for Lincoln County and making this a priority. We are forever grateful for Senator Merkley's diligence to push this matter through,” **said Lincoln County Sheriff, Curtis Landers.**

“Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden for your outstanding effort to help improve our public safety radio system here in Lincoln County. First Responder radios are vital to the safety and security of our personnel and the public. Without this funding assistance it would have taken us years to get many of these projects up and running. The teamwork of both Senators to make priorities like this available to Oregonians shows why their leadership is important,” **said Chief Dahlman, North Lincoln Fire & Rescue.**

“Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) is incredibly grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their support of this critical funding. CMH will utilize the requested funds to help renovate an existing CMH owned building that is located near its main campus, but outside of the designated tsunami inundation zone. CMH’s primary healthcare facility is located within the designated tsunami inundation zone and at the foot of a historic landslide. These risks could limit CMH’s ability to provide lifesaving healthcare services during and immediately after a natural disaster. The proposed renovation will enhance CMH’s emergency preparedness by enabling CMH to use the building as an emergency operations center, a logistics and supply hub, and a patient evacuation site. The requested \$750,000 in federal funds will help offset the total project budget of \$2,122,243,” **said Erik Thorsen, Chief Executive Officer of Columbia Memorial Hospital.**

“The Coquille Indian Tribe is grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for securing these funds that expand the Tribe’s salmon restoration on the Coquille River. The Tribe will use this funding to directly improve the health and abundance of fall chinook for the benefit of all Oregonians,” **said Brenda Meade, Chairman, Coquille Indian Tribe.**

“This funding will enable Tillamook Estuaries Partnership to purchase the instruments and equipment needed to monitor ocean acidification and dissolved oxygen in all five of our estuaries; flooding patterns and carbon sequestration in natural and restored wetlands; water temperatures in upland salmon-bearing rivers and streams; and other water quality and quantity parameters essential to wildlife and our way of life,” **said Kristi Foster, PhD, Executive Director, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership.** “The information we collect will help us understand local climate impacts and prioritize adaptive, resilient green infrastructure and nature-based projects that enhance the health of our iconic estuaries, environment, and rural communities. We thank Senators Merkley and Wyden for their support of TEP and the entire National Estuary Program.”

“On behalf of the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay’s Board of Commission and Staff, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to Senators Wyden and Merkley to ensure \$10.528 million in funding to support dredging the Federally Authorized Coos Bay Navigation Channel. Annual maintenance dredging is critical in facilitating the movement of goods in and out of the United States as well as safety in navigation. Our Federal delegation has worked tirelessly to advocate for the Port of Coos Bay, facilitating future growth and economic development, supporting our existing maritime terminals and the fishing industry, and promoting safety for the mariners navigating the Coos Bay Channel,” **said John Burns, Port of Coos Bay CEO.**

“OSU appreciates Senator Merkley’s and Senator Wyden’s efforts to secure funds for an OSU-led project through the Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education program that will help us launch an innovative technical professional development program aimed at contributing to Oregon’s growing Blue Economy Workforce. With this federal support, OSU’s new Hatfield Innovation Lab is poised to lead a collaborative effort on the Oregon Coast to develop a training program that will help blue economy workers acquire the trade, technical, and innovation skills they need to succeed, and help the sectors that drive Oregon’s blue economy to thrive,” **said Dr. Bob Cowen, Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center at Oregon State University.**

“Tillamook County is grateful to both Senators Merkley and Wyden for their support of our efforts to expand our fiber backbone within the county. When the pandemic hit in early 2020, we were saddened to find that so many of our students had Chromebooks but no internet access to participate in mandated distance learning. We have some great partners in the county and Tillamook Creamery Association and Hampton Lumber stepped up with generous donations to support our efforts to provide fixed wireless to as many students homes as we could. This in addition to a grant from Business Oregon along with county funding proved highly successful in providing an opportunity for our children to continue their education. We realize that rural counties such as ours are sorely lacking in access to high-speed internet and know that this is the best economic development tool any rural area can deploy,” **said David Yamamoto, Chair, Board of Commissioners.**

“While the natural beauty of ocean beaches, broad stretches of agricultural land and coastal mountains attract thousands of visitors to Tillamook County, our aging communication system is in dire need of replacement. Public safety, fire/rescue, ambulance services, public works, 911 center and many other agencies find that there are many dead spots within our county which places first responders as well as our residents and visitors in peril. We are so grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting our efforts to provide essential services for Tillamook County. This investment in our rural county will allow us to continue to provide the level of services necessary to support our growing economy,” **said David Yamamoto, Chair, Board of Commissioners.**

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