

What Stakeholders in Metro Region Are Saying About the Legislation:

"At Oregon Food Bank, we believe no one should be hungry — and we work systemically to address both the need for food assistance today and the root causes of hunger," **said Susannah Morgan, Oregon Food Bank CEO.** "Today's investments in the Ontario Community Food Center and Columbia Gorge Food Bank will significantly increase our ability to meet the rising need for food assistance here in Oregon. Thanks to the leadership of Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, we continue to move toward a future where our communities never know hunger."

"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 Merkley and Wyden tremendous support of our Downtown Loop Project," **said Mayor Lacey Beaty, City of Beaverton.** "These active transportation investments will improve mobility and access for the Central Beaverton neighborhood, an area that has been historically disenfranchised and directly impacted by redlining. Guided by extensive community input, our Downtown Equity Strategy, and our Climate Action Plan, these improvements will emphasize safety for all while proactively addressing harmful historical practices. Beaverton is deeply grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for making this investment in our community."

"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, City of Sherwood.**

"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 selected for this 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 is being funded. These funds will establish a collaborative program with Scappoose High School, Portland Community College and Oregon's Institute of Technology. These funds will help us provide High School students a unique opportunity to learn about the fire service, aviation (Uncrewed Aircraft (UAS), and experience with public safety robotics. At the end of the school year, the students will acquire college credit and certificates specific to emergency service and aviation. Our goal is to foster a learning environment that will help our students, community, and state, as the UAS industry continues to rapidly expand in the utility 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 will 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."

"Black families have faced unprecedented food insecurity due to the pandemic. Currently, 1 in 5 Black families in Oregon experience hunger, with 18% of Black families experiencing high food insecurity. Feed'em Freedom Foundation would like to give our sincere thanks to Congressman Blumenauer, Senators Merkley, Wyden and Oregon State Senator Akasha Lawrence-Spence and their staff for working on the FY 23 Omnibus Bill for Our Black Community Food Center," **said Shantae Johnson, Executive Director.** "This project has been years in the making and to see this much support behind what we have been striving towards, inspires us to continue to create and cultivate not only Black food security but community-led agricultural efforts."

"Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley have once again proven their commitment to the safety of our communities," **said Mayor Ted Wheeler, City of Portland.** "With their successful effort to secure funding for our Community Safety Pilot Program, the City of Portland can implement vital interventions that will reduce violence and increase safety through proven approaches like engaging youth, improving the built environment, and addressing economic drivers of violence. In short, thanks to the support of our Senators, we will save lives."

"The City of Portland thanks our Senators for backing the \$2 million special appropriation to support redevelopment of the Fairfield Apartments," **said Portland Housing Bureau Commissioner Dan Ryan.** "The Fairfield provides dedicated affordable housing for very low-income residents who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. These funds help us preserve a critical housing type in our streets-to-housing continuum. The project will also preserve a historic building and generate opportunities for small-scale, neighborhood-serving retail in the downtown core where many other low-income tenants reside in regulated affordable housing. We are grateful to Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley for their support of this much-needed project."

"Portlanders need a variety of safe ways to get around our city," **said Portland Bureau of Transportation Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty.** "We have an exciting opportunity to transform 82nd Avenue now that it has been transferred to local control, along with a substantial investment. This \$1 million in federal dollars will go towards safer access to public transit and all modes of transportation for East Portland. Thank you to Senators Wyden and Merkley,

PBOT, and everyone who was a part of securing these funds that will make Portland a safer and more welcoming place.”

“Investments that connect people to transit have the power to uplift entire communities,” **said Portland Bureau of Transportation Director Chris Warner**. “Thank you to Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, and Congressman Earl Blumenauer for championing this project for Portlanders and securing this funding. The improvements to NE Halsey Street will have a wide-range of benefits, helping people safely and more easily connect to some of TriMet’s most heavily-used transit lines while adding sidewalks, beautifying an area, and providing a safe and reliable connection for people walking and rolling.”

“The City of Portland is grateful to Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley for their support of the Legacy Business Preservation Project, which will prioritize the designation and culturally specific protection of African American, Asian American, and LGBTQ+ historic resources,” **said Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Commissioner Carmen Rubio**. “In recent years, retail services, fraternal clubs, and culturally-specific restaurants and bars that historically serve underrepresented communities have been among the most vulnerable to involuntary displacement in the city. Thanks in part to our Senators, this program will provide a menu of resources and protections to support the ongoing operation of diverse institutions.”

"Housing insecurity is a real issue for so many of our students," **said Portland State University President Stephen Percy**. "I am heartened to see this support for an affordable housing alternative to augment our vibrant downtown campus in the heart of Portland."

“The Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors and the Black Business Association of Oregon would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Senators Merkley and Wyden, the hard work of their respective staffs to ensure that our most overlooked communities are included in this bill” **said Nate McCoy, Executive Director of NAMC-Oregon**. “It is a true pleasure that our Senators understand that the healthy economic flow and growth of our black and brown communities have been historically dammed. For too long the majority of businesses “upriver” have received outsized economic benefits while stifling and restricting the development of “downriver” businesses, which are more often than not businesses of color. We are proud to work hand in hand with our Senators and their diligent staff to deconstruct that economic dam block by cement block.”

“The Albina Vision Trust (AVT) is stewarding the thoughtful reinvention of lower Albina, the cultural heart of Portland and the once-thriving center of Portland’s Black community, from which thousands of residents were forcibly displaced. The formation of the Albina Land Bank will catalyze investment and support Albina’s rebirth as a healthy, affordable and prosperous neighborhood reflecting the best of our common values,” **said Winta Yohannes, Executive Director of Albina Vision Trust**. “We are incredibly grateful for the steadfast advocacy and support from Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley, with whom we are proud to advance a new framework for equitable

urban planning and development as we chart a new path for the district's relationship with its federal partners.”

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