

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, Marion County.**

“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 a transitional housing facility with this latest award, to help some of those still displaced families transition back to housing stability. 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.”

“By taking the classroom to the community, the UO’s Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) gives students the applied workforce training that they need for future success. But the program also places the students’ education in direct service to Oregon communities and the critical societal challenges communities face, particularly around climate change and social equity. SCYP really is a win-win pairing of universities and communities. It stands as a national model of doing so. These funds will help us involve more students and reach more Oregon communities. We are grateful for the leadership of Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden and retiring Congressman Peter DeFazio in supporting this transformational work,” **said UO Professor Marc Schlossberg, Co-Director of the UO Sustainable Cities Institute.**

“On behalf of Benton County, I would like to give Senators Merkley and Wyden a sincere thank you for securing funds to support the Benton Area Transit Fleet Replacement project. In February 2020, Benton County established an ambitious goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 2010 levels by 2030, and be net-zero by 2050. This investment will allow for more county-operated vehicles in Benton County to be electric and provide safe and reliable public transportation to the entire Benton County Community. It will also help to develop an infrastructure for electric vehicle charging that supports the use of environmentally friendly vehicles in our County,” **said Benton County Commissioner Nancy Wyse.**

“Oregon’s senators value mental health care access for all community members. By championing funding for White Bird Clinic’s Mental Health Center Renovation, senators Merkley and Wyden have eliminated barriers to achieving mental health wellbeing faced by Oregonians enrolled in Medicaid. This funding will allow White Bird to nearly double the clinic’s capacity, allowing community members to avoid long wait times for counseling. On behalf of the Eugene/Springfield community, we thank the Senators for their farsighted advocacy,” **said Chris Hecht, White Bird Clinic's Executive Coordinator.**

“Over a two-year period, close to 2,000 Lincoln County residents were diagnosed with substance use disorder, yet there are no residential treatment services in Lincoln County. Our community members travel up to 300 miles for residential treatment, which can be a tremendous barrier. We are so grateful to Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden for recognizing that this is a crisis and advocating for funding to help us address it. This allocation will be used to help construct a 16-bed substance use disorder residential and intensive outpatient recovery center in Newport. Programs will include group and individual therapy, medication-assisted treatment and peer-delivered services for adults with substance use disorder, including opiates, alcohol, methamphetamines and others. This project is a collaboration between our health

districts, cities, county, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and many other community members, and we are thrilled that the federal government has joined this coalition to help people reclaim their lives and be restored to their families and communities,” **said Lesley Ogden, MD, CEO of Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital and Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital.**

“The American dream of homeownership is out of reach for so many working families – with rising home prices and now rising mortgage interest rates. Community Land Trusts bring that dream within reach, by creating permanently affordable homes for moderate income and first time homeowners. DevNW is so grateful for the support of Senators Wyden and Merkley, for their commitment to affordable housing, including affordable homeownership. The funds from this bill will help DevNW build 38 CLT homes – and create 38 new homeowner families - in Eugene and Salem, during an historic housing crisis,” **said Emily Reiman, CEO, Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.**

“This appropriation funds a Fleet Fall Protect and Crane system that will provide safe access for LTD’s Fleet Maintenance Team to service the high-voltage systems on the District’s growing number of electric buses,” **said Jameson T. Auten, LTD’s CEO.** “On behalf of the LTD team, I want to thank Senators Wyden and Merkley, and Congressman DeFazio, for their support of this project and the District’s ongoing transition to a zero emissions fleet while keeping the safety of our dedicated workforce top of mind.”

"The Dallas community greatly appreciates Senators Merkley and Wyden for their diligent efforts to include funding for our City of Dallas Emergency Operations Center project in the upcoming appropriations bill”, **said City of Dallas Mayor Brian Dalton.** “Over the years, Dallas has provided top quality emergency response services through our Police, Fire, Ambulance and Public Works departments, even in a resource-constrained environment. With our community encountering increasing risks from such factors as severe ice storms, nearby wildland fires, floods, prolonged power outages and the persistent global pandemic, we have a compelling need to up our Emergency Operations capability to rise to the challenge. Beyond that, in the background of all our work looms the certainty that the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake will inevitably strike us, making all these other relatively short-term emergencies pale in comparison. Therefore, the funding provided by Senators Merkley and Wyden's efforts will greatly enhance our emergency response capabilities, modernizing them to best serve our residents and the region when the chips are truly down. It will be money well-spent.”

“On behalf of our board of directors and the Salem Area Mass Transit District, I express our sincere appreciation to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting and believing in the value of public transportation,” **said Board President Ian Davidson.** “Our responsibility is meeting the changing transportation needs of our community and this substantial investment in a new South Salem transit center mobility hub greatly increases connectivity, mobility, and access for all.”

The economy of Detroit and the Santiam Canyon is tourism based. The work by Senators Wyden and Merkley in providing this funding for deepening water under the two marinas on Detroit Lake will extend the boating season on the lake. The result if the extension will be a huge benefit to the economy of the region," **said Jim Trett, Mayor of City of Detroit.**

"On behalf of the College, we want to thank Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley for their continued support and advocacy with regard to the Final FY 23 Omnibus Bill," **said Executive Dean Holly Nelson, Chemeketa Community College.** "These funds will support the expansion of our Commercial Drivers License program and will increase access to training across Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties in Oregon that rely on truck drivers to deliver goods and services ranging from agriculture to the logistics industries. Our region depends on CDL drivers to keep our economy strong and in motion. Further, licensed CDL drivers earn a family wage. With the addition of a CDL simulator, we will be able to reach younger trainees and start hands-on training while they are still in high school. This expansion will more than double the size of each CDL cohort and produce a graduating class every four weeks. We sincerely appreciate this opportunity and look forward with excitement to its long-lasting impacts."

"At the Eugene Family YMCA, we are profoundly grateful for the historic and visionary support of our Congressional leaders, who understand the impact a new Y will have on families and youth. The YMCA has been evolving and innovating in order to meet the health and educational needs of Lane County for 135 years. Because of expanded, thoughtfully-designed youth spaces, the new Y will have a transformational impact on the health and education of thousands of children in Lane County over the next 100 years. This unprecedented investment in our communities' youth, during their formative years, will leave a legacy that will strengthen their lives in vital ways," **said Brian Steffen, CEO Eugene Family YMCA.**

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