

“Tumalo Irrigation District would like to thank Senator Merkley for his continued support for the replacement of Tumalo Irrigation District’s 100 years old failing irrigation infrastructure. Senator Merkley’s support of our financial assistance request gives our farmers and ranchers hope of relief during this current drought, as well as access to a safer, more efficient, and stable delivery system to help our farmers and ranchers and future generations have a more secure water source now and into the future,” **said Chris Schull, Tumalo Irrigation District Manager.**

“The City of Myrtle Creek is thankful for the support of Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden and their willingness to advocate for the needed improvements to the City’s water treatment system and replacement of significant portions of the City’s aging water distribution system. The much needed improvements and replacements would not be possible if it were not for this financial support,” **said Matthew Hald, Mayor, City of Myrtle Creek.**

“The City of Estacada is very excited to hear that our funding request was included in the draft bill. As a small city, just over 5,000 residents, the cost of building a new wastewater treatment plant will more than double our resident’s monthly sewer bill. This money will help us decrease the costs to our ratepayers. The current plant was built in the 1960s and is dire need of replacement. The new plant will handle our growth and increase the quality of our effluent discharge into the Clackamas River. Thank you Senators Merkley and Wyden for your efforts to help the small towns in Oregon,” **said Elaina Turpin, Assistant City Manager, City of Estacada.**

"Wallowa Lake Irrigation District is thrilled to be included in the list of Community-Initiated Projects approved at this stage. This funding will help us provide fish passage and screening for our irrigation infrastructure serving growers in Wallowa County," **said Joe Dawson, Wallowa Lake Irrigation District.**

“The City of Astoria is grateful for the assistance provided by Senator Merkley to address our community’s aging infrastructure. This high priority waterline resiliency project will upgrade existing drinking water pipes installed in 1928 and 1970. Without this critical funding, the project would have been delayed for another decade with debt service as the only option to pay for this essential infrastructure,” **said City of Astoria Mayor, Sean Fitzpatrick.**

“The Rogue River Watershed Council and our partners are enthusiastic about Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden's support for watershed restoration in the Upper Rogue River Basin. The ecological restoration actions will use regional contractor expertise to re-engage natural processes in streams that will improve and protect drinking water sources, rehabilitate streamside areas that are overrun with blackberry thickets, and address key limiting factors for Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, and steelhead. These improvements increase the resilience of local communities, wildlife, and the natural areas we all depend on,” **said Brian Barr; Executive Director, Rogue River Watershed Council.**

“Thanks to the efforts of Senator Jeff Merkley and his staff, the City of Sumpter is excited about the funds awarded to make the long-neglected repairs to our city water supply!” **said Linda Wise, Mayor of Sumpter.**

"The Oregon Trails Coalition is grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for elevating local investment priorities that will address major gaps in Oregon's Signature Trail network and increase access to the outdoors in communities across Oregon," **said Steph Noll, Oregon Trails Coalition Director.**

"Senators Merkley and Wyden wholeheartedly recognize the significance of addressing and modernizing aging infrastructure, which plays a vital role in meeting the fundamental needs and services of our communities. This is imperative in rural and low-income areas, where service districts depend on the infrastructure but lack necessary resources for essential capital improvements and upgrades," said Benton County Board of Commissioners Chair Pat Malone. "The Senators' steadfast support for our funding request of \$1,160,000 to revitalize the aging sewer system in the Alpine and Alsea Service District is not only about ensuring community safety but also helping keep utility bills affordable for low-income, rural families," **said Benton County Board Chair, Pat Malone.**

"The City of Hillsboro is grateful for the financial funding request support to update a nearly 80-year-old, 20-mile-long water transmission line that supplies drinking water to several thousands of customers in unincorporated Washington County. This support will play a key role in our plan to seismically reinforce this important lifeline and ensure our rural customers will continue to have clean, high-quality, dependable water for generations to come. We thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their ongoing support, dedication, and investment in vital water infrastructure projects across Oregon," **said Niki Iverson, Water Director/JWC General Manager.**

"The City of Prineville is very appreciative of this funding that will help to address human health and safety concerns through the extension of water and sewer services," **said Caroline Ervin, Capital Project Manager, City of Prineville.**

"All of us at EWEB and in the McKenzie River Valley are honored to receive the support of Senator Merkley as together we invest today in a resilient tomorrow. EWEB's McKenzie Valley Fuels Reduction Project is a vital initiative that addresses the pressing need for wildfire risk reduction in the McKenzie watershed and surrounding communities. This project will help safeguard the region's natural resources, infrastructure, and residents from the devastating impacts of wildfires, while also protecting the water quality that wildfires can threaten," **said Susan Fricke, EWEB Water Resources Supervisor.**

"As a co-chair of the Governor's Oregon Wildfire Detection Camera Interoperability Committee, the University of Oregon Hazards Lab is proud to have brought our recommendations to Oregon's senators as a community-initiated project. The work will advance fire responder capabilities and benefit all Oregonians," **said Leland O'Driscoll, Associate Director of UO Oregon Hazards Lab.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden’s support for interagency coordination for wildfire detection cameras will help advance the mitigation and response effort amidst a complex landscape of different fire regimes in Oregon,” **said Professor Doug Toomey, Director of UO Oregon Hazards Lab.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand the critical importance of the Willamette River to the health and safety of Oregon and the City of Portland. Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms (HCB) dangerously threaten the health of people, fish, wildlife and our pets, and will only worsen with climate change. This funding is a very meaningful boost to our work to address the Ross Island Lagoon blooms. We are committed to mitigating this risk, and are grateful to have Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden and their staff as partners,” **said Willie Levenson, Ringleader, Human Access Project.**

“The Klamath Tribes express our gratitude to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their exceptional leadership and dedication in supporting our Forest & Fire Workforce Training Initiative. With this funding, the Klamath Tribes can effectively operationalize our Master Stewardship Agreement with the US Forest Service for ecological restoration. We extend our appreciation to the Senators for fulfilling their commitments to tribal sovereignty and partnership. Their support will significantly bolster tribal and local capabilities to address the pressing forest health and wildfire crisis. This funding will serve as a catalyst, unlocking access to tens of millions of dollars in state and federal funding within the region, enabling us to achieve ecological, cultural, and public values in our homeland,” **said Steve Rondeau, Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Director.**