

### **Mid-Columbia FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:**

"The City of Sandy is grateful to Senator Wyden, Senator Merkley, and Representative Dexter, all of whom understand that small Oregon communities face serious constraints when it comes to funding major infrastructure projects. Their support of Sandy's funding request to develop our new wastewater discharge solution will directly benefit local families by easing the impact of future utility rate increases. We sincerely appreciate their leadership," **said Tyler Deems, City of Sandy City Manager.**

"On behalf of Oregonians and all Americans, The Friends of Timberline are dedicated to the preservation of National Historic Landmark Timberline Lodge. This federal funding is essential in updating the fire suppression system of this remarkable federal facility. We are most appreciative to Senators Merkley and Wyden for championing this important infrastructure need," **said Jon Tullis, Friends of Timberline.**

"Farmers Irrigation District is grateful for Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden's support for project funding. This will allow the District to enclose the last 2.5 miles of our main canal, which will increase water security for local farmers and improve watershed resiliency," **said Alexis Vaivoda, Farmers Irrigation District Manager.**

"This funding is a major win for the City of Maupin and our residents. The \$1 million investment will allow us to make critical improvements to our water distribution system, strengthening reliability, public safety, and long-term infrastructure resilience for our community. We are grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their continued support of small rural communities and for helping ensure projects like ours move forward," **said Nick Smith, Maupin City Manager.**

"The Hood River Watershed Group is thrilled with this news. For several years now, the Watershed Group, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Army Corps of Engineers, Port of Hood River and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife have been discussing the need for and benefits of improving fish habitat at the mouth of the Hood River. We are excited to get started on this important feasibility study with the Corps of Engineers and appreciate the support and follow through by Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden in securing matching funds for this project," **said Cindy Thieman, Executive Director, Hood River Watershed Group.**