

**Eastern Oregon FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:**

“The City of Pendleton could not be more excited about this amazing news. This Community Initiated Project (CIP) award will allow the City of Pendleton to renovate the currently unusable second story of the historic B-17 Hangar (10,000 sf), creating state-of-the-art, ADA-compliant workspace. Enhanced innovation space will increase the number of startups the Oregon UAS Accelerator can support and will build upon the Pendleton UAS Range’s reputation as Dronetown, USA. We would never have achieved all this without the unwavering support of Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley,” **said Steve Chrisman, Pendleton Economic Development & Airport Director.**

“We are incredibly grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their continued advocacy on behalf of rural communities. This funding will allow us to upgrade our nuclear medicine equipment with advanced imaging technology, supporting earlier diagnoses, faster treatment decisions, and better outcomes for our patients. It’s an investment that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of the people we serve,” **said Jeremy Davis, President/CEO, Grande Ronde Hospital and Clinics.**

“This funding will allow Harney County Health District to make critical upgrades to our Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, which are currently starting to fail, to ensure we are able to continue serving our community with high-quality health care. These upgrades will also mean increased energy efficiency and financial savings to the District for many years to come. We are grateful to Sens. Merkley and Wyden for their advocacy on our behalf,” **said Bob Gomes, CEO, Harney County Health District.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand the healthcare challenges that residents, hospitals, and clinics face throughout rural eastern Oregon. Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center (NEOAHEC) is thrilled with the investment made by the Senators. The purchase of an advanced obstetric and neonatal patient simulator will allow the regional center to provide hands-on, high-fidelity education critically needed to keep healthcare professionals in a practice ready state to safely care for expectant mothers and new babies,” **said Meredith Lair, Executive Director of NEOAHEC.**

“Morrow County Health District/Pioneer Memorial Hospital is very thankful for the tireless effort put forth by Senators Merkley and Wyden in pushing our CIP project request for a CT scanner through a very tough legislative session. The 65 slice, low dose CT scanner plays an important role in assisting our providers quick access in identifying and diagnosing of illness/injuries. This important update in our Radiology Department will help save lives. Frontier/Rural Critical Access Hospitals such as ours, are in financial trouble and Senators Merkley and Wyden understand that without this type of funding, rural CAH’s could not replace vital patient care equipment. Through their efforts and support of this funding request, Pioneer Memorial Hospital will continue to save lives and offer the best in patient care,” **said Bob Houser, Interim CEO of the Morrow County Health District, FACHE.**

"Valley Family is grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their support over the years. Their dedication to the healthcare needs of Eastern Oregonians is apparent in their leadership in including \$1.5 million in their list of priorities for funding as a U.S. Senate Community Initiated Project," **said Ken Hart, CEO, Valley Family Health Care.** "These funds will help Valley Family combine its medical and dental clinics in Nyssa into a new integrated clinic. The new clinic would allow for additional capacity for medical and dental services as well as allow us to better integrate behavioral health services for the community as well. Providing these needed healthcare services in Nyssa helps those that have difficulties traveling to get services as well as supporting the economic development needs of the area by keeping these well-paying jobs in the community."

"We are excited to learn about the support of our Early College Initiatives program. These resources will enable junior and senior high school students to learn about their incredible opportunities after graduation and help strengthen rural communities across the state. I greatly appreciate Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden, and their teams for supporting and advocating for EOU and our work," **said Kelly Ryan, President of Eastern Oregon University.**

"Wallowa Resources and Working Homes extend our heartfelt gratitude to Oregon's Senators for securing essential funding for our rural community. This vital support will address the shortage of affordable housing for both our workforce and retired population. With these capital investments, we will enhance the safety, energy efficiency, and overall livability of Wallowa County's last remaining affordable open-market apartment building," **said Nils Christoffersen, Executive Director of Wallowa Resources.**

"The City of Sumpter is excited, and appreciative, of receiving funding for our Community Center. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand small cities such as Sumpter have limited financial resources to repair aging infrastructure. Their support of our financial assistance request to help repair our 20th century Community Center will renew the community pride in this Sumpter landmark and provide a safe gathering space for years to come. Thank you Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden," **said Linda Wise, Mayor of Sumpter.**

"Grant School District #3 is deeply grateful for the leadership of Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Ron Wyden in advocating for our youngest learners and their families. The \$1.45 million grant will significantly support our collaborative team of 23 community partners in the creation of an Early Learning Center serving children from birth to age five. This center will allow partners to leverage shared resources and staff to create a coordinated, high-quality space that better meets the needs of our early learning community. We appreciate the continued support of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden, whose commitment reflects a clear understanding of the critical importance of early childhood education and family support," **said Mark Witty, John Day School District.**