

Mid-Columbia FY2026 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:

"Wasco County is immensely grateful for the hard work of Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Ron Wyden to help secure funding for the Columbia Gorge Crisis Resolution Center. This critical investment will significantly enhance our community's ability to address mental health needs, provide a safe and supportive environment for individuals in crisis, and will reduce strain on our regional emergency rooms and law enforcement agencies," **said Tyler Stone, Wasco County Administrator.**

"Clackamas County is focused on radical compassion for individuals struggling with mental health and substance use disorders. This Recovery Campus will be integral in making treatment and recovery services available in our community. We are very appreciative of the Senators' partnership in prioritizing care for our neighbors," **said Ben West, Clackamas County Commissioner.**

"For decades, the tumwata village property sat abandoned and ignored. This Community-Initiated Project funding from the Senate THUD Appropriations Bill will give us essential resources to breathe life back into the land while taking another step closer to returning people to Willamette Falls. We're grateful that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden continue to see the importance of this project and what restoring tumwata village brings to the community," **said Chairwoman Cheryle Kennedy, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.**

"Big River Community Land Trust is thrilled to have this support to build permanently affordable housing in what has become the most expensive region to live in Oregon. But what we appreciate most is that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand this is not just about addressing the housing crisis. It's about ensuring homes remain affordable across generations, preserving the social and economic diversity that defines Hood River and keeps it livable," **said Alysha Sherburne, Big River Community Land Trust Executive Director.**

"This funding will support new affordable workforce housing in ZigZag; ensuring Mount Hood National Forest employees, ski resort employees, and other seasonal workers and community members can afford to live where they work and strengthening the region's workforce and long-term resilience," **said Jill Sherman, Northwest Community Housing Foundation.**