

Central Oregon FY2024 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:

“Tumalo Irrigation District would like to thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their 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.**

“On behalf of COIC and our CORE3 partners, we are grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for recognizing the CORE3 project,” **said Tammy Baney, COIC Executive Director.** “The Pacific Northwest, State of Oregon, and Central Oregon are facing growing threats from natural disasters. There is an immediate need to have a dedicated coordination center and collaborative training facility to support our local, state, and federal public safety and emergency management personnel; in addition to saving valuable time and money with the ability to receive word class training without the need to travel out of the area. This financial support will go directly to building the infrastructure needed to bring this critical facility to life.”

“The work done by Senators Merkley and Wyden has really helped Redmond increase the capacity of our new wastewater plant to meet the needs of our growing community,” **said Redmond Mayor Ed Fitch.**

“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.**

“Investment in our growing City’s transportation infrastructure is not just about more efficient movement, it also helps facilitate economic activity, increases connectivity, improves safety, and enhances quality of life for our community. Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden and Congresswoman Chavez-DeRemer for supporting and championing the Bend Municipal Airport Air Traffic Control Tower and Hawthorne Avenue Pedestrian and Bicyclist Overcrossing projects to serve our community today and into the future,” **said Mayor Melanie Kebler, City of Bend.**

“Many thanks to Senators Merkley and Wyden and Congresswoman Chavez-DeRemer for their community project funding support of a federal contract air traffic control tower in Bend. This tower project is critical to enhancing safety at the Bend Airport and will significantly enhance economic development opportunities throughout the Bend community,” **said Tracy Williams, A.A.E., Airport Manager for the Bend Municipal Airport.**

“Bend-Redmond Habitat is incredibly grateful for the support of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden. Working class families in Central Oregon are burdened by high rent costs that leave homeownership out of reach. At Habitat we are dedicated to changing lives through affordable

homeownership. With these funds we will build 15 new homes to provide deserving families and individuals with a brighter future—with the pride, safety, educational attainment, and wealth building opportunities that go along with homeownership,” **said Scott Nordquist, Director of Grants Management.**

“This funding is very much welcomed and critical for Arnold Irrigation District to complete its canal modernization. This project investment will secure water supply to our farmers after four consecutive years of having to shut down our irrigation season at the end of July, and permanently protect water instream for the Deschutes River and habitat for many species. We appreciate Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden’s continued support for this and other projects that are ‘win-win’ and provide water to agriculture and our streams in the Deschutes Basin,” **said Steve Johnson, District Manager of Arnold Irrigation District.**

“Recent multi-year drought in the Deschutes Basin again reminds us that investments are needed to ensure our water facilities are as efficient as possible. The funding in this bill will allow North Unit Irrigation District to begin construction of an ambitious piping project that will reduce water losses and increase water supply available for delivery to farms and ranches in the District. We appreciate Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden’s continued support of funding for this and other projects that improve water management in the Deschutes Basin,” **said Josh Bailey, District Manager of North Unit Irrigation District.**