

Eastern Oregon FY2024 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:

“As a community, there are a million little pieces to help your city grow and thrive. The city of Boardman is extremely grateful to our US Senators, Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, for their tireless efforts on behalf of our citizens through the appropriations bill. This funding will help to create a business incubator building, which will provide space for startup companies, and establish a major piece to our puzzle of success,” **said Brandon Hammond, City Manager, City of Boardman**

“These funds will help us increase small business job growth and retention and make a space for enterprising business people to permanently create new jobs and opportunities in rural communities throughout the state,” **said Judy Erwin, R3 Board of Directors.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden recognize Oregon's rural cities' tremendous potential and need for more capacity and funding to achieve their economic goals. With this help, we'll be able to revitalize Oregon's most distressed rural areas,” **said Nick Green, President, Catalyst Public Policy Advisors.**

“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.**

“Thanks to the efforts of Senator Jeff Merkley, Senator Ron Wyden and their 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.**

“Morrow County thanks Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden for their efforts in securing this funding. With their help we will continue our partnership in first identifying, then implementing, long-term solutions to provide safe and clean drinking water for all our citizens,” **said Morrow County Chair, David Sykes.**

“The Harney County Watershed Council would like to thank Senator Merkley for his support in helping the State of Oregon and USGS to develop tools to sustainably manage groundwater resources for the people, communities and watersheds of Oregon,” **said Karen Moon, Coordinator for the Harney County Watershed Council.**

“Pendleton Children’s Center’s board of directors is extremely grateful for this funding, which will jump start our Phase 2 expansion into a second building adjacent to our existing child care

and early education center. Our goal is to eventually enroll 150 infants, toddlers and preschoolers, providing high-quality care and helping those families – while also stimulating economic and workforce development – in this region of Eastern Oregon. We thank Senators Wyden and Merkley for their support of this important community resource,” **said Kathryn B. Brown, Secretary-Treasurer, Pendleton Children’s Center.**

“Travel Information Council is excited with this news! We are grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting our partnership with the Oregon Historical Society, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to tell Oregon Trail history from an indigenous, and place-based perspective that will educate thousands of travelers (at safety rest areas on I-84) annually,” **said Elizabeth Boxall, Executive Director, Travel Information Council.**

“Lifeways is beyond grateful to be considered for funding to support Malheur County's efforts to combat mental health and substance use crisis in our community. This funding will be instrumental in building a crisis stabilization center where individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis can receive immediate and appropriate assistance 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. This will eliminate unnecessary stays in the emergency department as well as free up law enforcement officers to focus on community safety. On behalf of Malheur County, Lifeways would like to thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for recognizing and supporting the increasing need for behavioral health services. This funding will strengthen services for the most vulnerable and underserved families in Oregon,” **said Andrea Recla, Clinical Director of Intensive Outpatient Services.**

“The CyberMill has proved a successful model in frontier communities for addressing the need of equitable access to technology, meeting spaces, and broadband. This support will help replicate this success in additional underrepresented populations in Grant County increasing access to telehealth, workforce development, education and addressing social determinants of health in our communities,” **said Didgette McCracken, OSU Grant County Open Campus and Agriculture Faculty.**