

**Community-Initiated Projects for Oregon Included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Senate Interior,
Environment and Related Agencies Draft Appropriations Bill**

"This \$4.5 million federal investment for the construction of our wastewater treatment plant is a powerful affirmation of trust and shared vision," **said Mayor Sherrie Rininger, City of John Day.** "Thanks to this support, we can safeguard public health, protect our river, and ensure reliable cost-effective service for every family in John Day and Canyon City. I'm deeply grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for championing our request and for investing in rural communities like ours; and to the entire John Day community for partnering in this huge investment."

"The City of Tillamook is incredibly grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for championing our critical infrastructure needs at the Federal level. The \$4 million in proposed funding for our Water Transmission Line Replacement Project represents a transformative investment in our city's future. This support brings us one major step closer to ensuring safe, reliable water service for our residents and businesses for generations to come," **said Aaron Burris, Tillamook Mayor.**

"Cycle Yamhill County is beyond thrilled with this news. This funding will allow us to build a world class recreational facility in Yamhill County. Not only will the Panther Creek Trail System attract visitors and provide local businesses with robust economic benefits, it will be a landmark amenity for local riders of all ages and skills, and a beacon for employers and job seekers who count outdoor recreation opportunities as a 'must have' when choosing to relocate," **Philip Higgins, Vice-president, Cycle Yamhill County.** "Cycle Yamhill County is deeply grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for recognizing our vision of how Outdoor Recreation works as an Economic driver for local communities, and appreciates the investment in this shared economic development vision."

"Thanks to Senators Merkley and Wyden, COR is one step closer to launching industrial symbiosis in East Portland—reducing food waste, creating quality jobs and advancing Oregon's circular economy," **said Alando Simpson, Director of COR Healthy Communities.**

"The project will provide long term ecological benefits within Lake County's closed basin watersheds that have been impacted by catastrophic wildfires and exceptional drought conditions. The funding will have a direct and immediate impact on economic activity as local contractors implement restorative actions on land and instream. This is a win-win scenario for the local communities and native fish and wildlife in our area," **Brandi Neider, Project Manager, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council said.**

"The City of Talent is thrilled with this news. This funding will allow us to replace the large amount of aging asbestos-cement (AC) pipe in our water distribution system to provide safe and secure water service for our residents for decades to come," **said Mayor Darby Ayers Flood.** "We have been experiencing an increasing number of pipe failures, causing disruptions in the distribution system and creating water loss. Senators Merkley and Wyden understand small cities such as Talent have limited financial resources to repair and replace failing infrastructure."

Their support of our financial assistance request to help replace much of our water distribution system, some of which is more than 60 years old, is particularly important to provide reliable fire protection in an era when wildfires are more prevalent.”

“The City of Beaverton is thrilled to have Senators Merkley and Wyden’s support in funding the North Transmission Line Intertie (NTLI) project,” **said Mayor Lacey Beaty, City of Beaverton.**

“NTLI will contribute to the sustainability of both Beaverton’s and the region’s water supply and will help us prepare for the future with a seismically resilient water line and additional capacity for our growing community needs.”

“This funding will allow the Oregon Zoo’s condor recovery effort to reach new heights — helping more young birds survive in the wild and advancing our broader work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yurok Tribe and other conservation partners. For a critically endangered species like this, each new hatching is a vital step toward recovery. Thank you Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting this important work,” **said Lynn Peterson, Metro Council President.**

“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 Advocacy Chairman.**

“This is exciting news. The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership is an all volunteer Nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalizing the Umpqua River basin ecosystems and the communities it surrounds. We focus on using local workforce skills and equipment to implement our projects. The support of Senators Merkley and Wyden will go a long way to recharge our economically depressed low demographic area and bring healing to our waterways for wild fish and man alike,” **said Stanley Petrowski, President/Director of the South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership.**

“The Sweet Home Fire and Ambulance District is excited about this news! This funding is a critical investment in the safety and resilience of our region,” **said Nick Tyler, Fire Chief of Sweet Home Fire District.** “It will significantly enhance our wildfire preparedness by allowing us to build and sustain a dedicated wildland firefighting workforce, improve training and response capabilities, and expand our capacity to protect lives, property, and Oregon’s natural landscapes. As wildfires become more frequent and severe, rural fire districts like ours face increasing challenges with limited staffing and resources. This support helps us not only meet today’s demands but prepare for tomorrow’s emergencies. We are deeply grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for championing these projects and for their continued commitment to strengthening wildfire response across rural Oregon. Having the support of the Senators shows that all Oregonians are in this together. These partnerships are the foundation to creating a safer and more fire resilient Oregon.”

"We are incredibly grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their diligent work in securing \$1 million in federal funding for the James Howe Water Tank and La Creole Sewer projects," **said Dallas Mayor Rich Slack**. "This essential funding will significantly improve our city's resiliency to short-term water emergencies and ensure the continued provision of safe drinking water for all Dallas residents. In addition, the sewer project provides essential infrastructure to advance needed housing and commercial development opportunities in our growing city."

"Oregon DEQ is thrilled to see two funding requests are in the Senate Appropriations bill, which are critically important to addressing environmental challenges facing rural Oregon; groundwater quality and wildfire," **said Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Director, Leah Feldon**. "Thank you to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for bringing federal funds to the table as the state investigates groundwater quality concerns in Crook County, and as we work to prevent catastrophic wildfire and improve air quality through sustainable management of woody debris."

"This project provides a critical layer of protection against natural and man-made disasters which result in power outages," **said Mark Morgan, Hermiston Assistant City Manager**. "These backup generators will ensure that clean drinking water continues to flow to more than 20,000 Oregonians in the Hermiston area, and that process water continues to flow to power producers who supply more than 1 Gigawatt of electricity to the Pacific Northwest power grid."

"The Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council thanks Senators Merkley and Wyden! The Salmon SuperHwy's progress is only possible because of our collaborative partnership around the shared mission of building lasting infrastructure to benefit the whole community. By replacing undersized and failing culverts, we can reconnect essential habitats for fish and aquatic organisms, while at the same time improving the transportation system, decreasing flooding and increasing climate resilience," **said Natalie Nites, Executive Director, Nestucca, Neskowin, and Sand Lake Watersheds Council**.

"THPRD is grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their tremendous support for funding urban wildfire protection. With 162 natural areas and more than 1,600 acres of land, it is essential that we get the funding to secure these vital natural areas and ensure we are deploying the best wildfire protection practices we can for the safety of our community," **said Barbie Minor, President, THPRD Board of Directors**.