

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2025

Stephen Ehikian  
Acting Administrator  
1800 F Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20405

Acting Administrator Ehikian:

We write to express serious concerns regarding the General Services Administration's (GSA's) decision to terminate federal real estate leases and propose the sale of federal buildings in Oregon. This sweeping reduction in accessible federal office space disrupts the agencies that serve our communities, upends the stability of federal workers, and undermines critical public services. These actions come on the heels of federal employees being required to return to the office, adding even more uncertainty and confusion for workers, families, and local business.

The reality is clear: this is not about saving money—it's about destabilizing the effectiveness of federal programs without thought or care for how that will affect working people. The widespread closure of federal offices will cause pervasive financial and logistical challenges for small businesses, local governments, public servants, and communities across Oregon. And yet, there has been no transparency about how GSA's actions will impact the ability of agencies to carry out their missions or what plans, if any, are in place to maintain services for Oregonians.

Slashing office space at this scale does not just impact federal employees—it hurts Oregonians who rely on the services that these agencies provide. From farmers and ranchers with questions about Farm Service Agency resources, to families accessing Social Security services, and to community members needing to send and receive mail through the Post Office, these closures will force people to travel farther and wait longer for essential assistance. The public servants, who live, shop, and raise families in these communities play a crucial role in the communities where they serve. Pulling these people and services out of Oregon towns will send ripple effects through local economies, making it harder for small businesses and working families to stay afloat.

We urge you to stop this misdirected effort and reverse these reckless attempts to undermine federal programs and service. Oregonians deserve a government that is present in their communities, not one that abandons them. Before moving forward with any lease terminations or building closures, the GSA must provide complete and tailored justifications for each proposed sale and lease cancellation, a clear plan to ensure that federal employees can continue their work, guarantees that communities will not lose easy and affordable access to essential services, and that local economies will not suffer sudden changes at the whims of the GSA and an unelected billionaire running DOGE. Please respond in writing to the following questions:

1. The most recent non-core property list of federal properties in Oregon to sell that was publicly posted by the GSA included the Bonneville Power Administration's headquarters in Portland, the 911 Federal Building in Portland, the Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal

Building in Portland, the David J. Wheeler Federal Building in Baker City, the Eugene Federal Building in Eugene, the James A Redden U.S. Courthouse in Medford, a United States Geological Survey building and warehouse in Medford, and another warehouse and metal shed in Troutdale. Does it remain the intention of the GSA to sell any of these properties or any properties not included in this list? Please provide the following for each property listed, designated as a “non-core” property, or otherwise under consideration for sale:

- a. A comprehensive justification detailing all of the criteria by which each location was selected;
- b. A list of the services that these properties and the employees there provide;
- c. Detailed explanations for how the administration plans to continue to provide these services to the public in an easily accessible and affordable way; and
- d. The estimated amount of funding that would be raised from each sale versus the increased costs for Oregon communities.

2. What specific federal properties in Oregon does the GSA plan to cancel leases for? For each office, where are they located and what agencies are, or will be, affected?

3. Did GSA coordinate with affected federal agencies before terminating leases, and if so what criteria (if any) were used to determine which leases to terminate? If so, please provide a record of correspondence between the GSA and each federal agency impacted by lease terminations in Oregon.

4. Describe how GSA plans for the affected agencies to maintain an easily accessible presence and provide essential services in communities where leases are being terminated.

Did you consider, and if so please describe in detail, the following impacts to Oregonians:

- a. Does the GSA expect individuals on fixed incomes to travel longer distances to access federal services due to office closures? If so, how much further and how much will it cost for Oregonians to travel to access these essential services?
- b. How does the GSA plan to mitigate the disproportionate burden closure of offices will place on rural communities?
- c. How will these closures affect Tribal communities that rely on Bureau of Indian Affairs offices and services?
- d. What alternative arrangements are being made to ensure that Social Security, Medicare, and other essential programs remain accessible to elderly and disabled populations?
- e. What impact will office closures have on federal law enforcement agencies and their ability to carry out public safety operations? What contingency plans are in place for emergency response agencies that will be displaced by office closures?
- f. How will GSA ensure that passport services, IRS taxpayer assistance centers, postal services, and Social Security offices continue to meet demands?
- g. What steps is GSA taking to ensure that public lands and recreational spaces remain accessible and properly maintained?
- h. Has the GSA, or does the GSA plan to close VA clinics or benefits offices? If so, which locations would be closed? Provide details and criteria used in the determination and estimates for the number of Oregon veterans affected.


5. On January 20th, 2025, the administration directed agency and department heads to order all federal employees to return to the office. Where will federal employees in Oregon be expected to report to work if their current building lease is terminated? Please provide the plan for each federal agency in Oregon impacted by this decision.

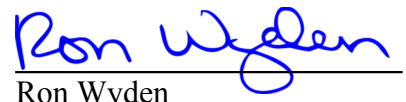
6. In Oregon alone, Reclamation projects contribute over \$576 million in crop and recreation value annually while supporting more than 1.6 million visitors. What is the specific reasoning behind closing the Bend Field Office? Were local stakeholders, water districts, or affected communities consulted prior to this decision? What impact analysis, if any, was conducted regarding water management, irrigation, recreation, and power generation in the region?

7. Is the GSA violating the terms of existing leases by terminating them early? If so, please describe any legal implications, including costs to taxpayers, these violations will have?

8. When GSA inevitably scrambles to sign new lease agreements, how will GSA ensure that federal real property decisions are made without conflicts of interest?

Sincerely,

  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator