



Hood River County Board of Commissioners

Allison Williams, County Administrator

COMMISSIONERS

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December 11, 2025

Honorable Senator Jeff Merkley
500 Liberty Street SE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter of Support for the Post-Wildfire Environmental Assistance Act

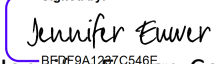
Dear Senator Merkley,

As you know, while the Rowena Fire received a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG), the damage did not meet the threshold for a Major Disaster Declaration. This left the county struggling to secure the necessary federal funding and technical expertise for the clean-up of hazardous material debris, including burned appliances and vehicles.

Your bill provides the essential remedy we need by amending the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the use of FMAGs for debris removal, and, most importantly, allows the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide assistance for hazardous material clean-up in these circumstances. This change ensures that communities recovering from significant but less-than-major wildfires can safely and efficiently remove environmental hazards.

We commend your leadership on this issue, which stems from the direct experience of our local communities. We fully endorse the bill and look forward to its successful introduction and passage.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Jennifer Euwer, Commission Chair
Hood River County