

### **Southern Oregon FY2024 Community-Initiated Project Quotes:**

“The City of Myrtle Creek is thankful for the support of Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden and their willingness to advocate for the needed improvements to the City’s water treatment system and replacement of significant portions of the City’s aging water distribution system. The much needed improvements and replacements would not be possible if it were not for this financial support,” **said Matthew Hald, Mayor, City of Myrtle Creek.**

“Radio communications for our Sheriff’s Department and Emergency Dispatch System for the County has been an issue for many years. With the help of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden, Lake County can now upgrade our communications system and improve the quality of service that is desperately needed. We really appreciate both Senators supporting these infrastructure upgrades,” **said Barry Shullanberger, Chair of the Lake County Board of Commissioners.**

“The City of Medford is thrilled with this news. This funding will allow us to acquire a Mobile Incident Command Center, which will provide a central hub for coordinating emergency response and significantly enhance regional resiliency among the City and our partners throughout the Rogue Valley,” **said Mayor Randy Sparacino.** “Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden understand the need for such a regional asset which will enhance response to future events by providing a unified command structure, coordination of resources, radio interoperability, and a protected location for personnel and equipment. Their support of our financial assistance request to help replace our outdated and undersized vehicle will help first responders in our region be better prepared to address wildfires, hazardous material emergencies, and other public safety incidents often requiring multi-agency response.”

“We are grateful for the support of the Congressional delegation in obtaining this funding, which will allow the County to bring cases and records into a digital and searchable format that can be used for law enforcement purposes long into the future. Hard copies of these records currently take up multiple rooms full of storage, and researching records costs us countless hours in personnel time. This funding is going to have a huge impact for Coos County by increasing our efficiencies in our operations and saving us time and money,” **said Coos County Commissioner, Bob Main.**

“The Rogue River Watershed Council and our partners are enthusiastic about Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden's support for watershed restoration in the Upper Rogue River Basin. The ecological restoration actions will use regional contractor expertise to re-engage natural processes in streams that will improve and protect drinking water sources, rehabilitate streamside areas that are overrun with blackberry thickets, and address key limiting factors for Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, and steelhead. These improvements increase the resilience of local communities, wildlife, and the natural areas we all depend on,” **said Brian Barr, Executive Director, Rogue River Watershed Council.**

“The Curry Soil and Water Conservation District greatly appreciates the work of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden to advance the suppression and eradication of gorse on the southern

Oregon coast. Gorse is an extremely flammable, highly invasive shrub that creates unnaturally hazardous wildfire conditions, and displaces productive land uses such as ranching, timber, and fish and wildlife habitat," **said Matt Swanson, Curry Watersheds Partnership.**

"We commend Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their unwavering support of the affordable workforce housing project in the City of North Bend, a community in the midst of a severe housing crisis. The scarcity of rental housing has reached unprecedented levels, pushing prices to a premium and leaving many individuals and families without viable options. In recognizing this dire situation, Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden have demonstrated their unwavering commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community. By championing this vital initiative, they are taking a crucial step towards alleviating the burden faced by hardworking individuals and families who are struggling to secure affordable housing. We deeply appreciate their leadership and unwavering dedication to ensuring that North Bend residents have access to safe, affordable rental housing. Their tireless advocacy for sustainable and accessible housing solutions is a testament to their understanding of the urgent need for immediate action. We are grateful for their partnership and stand united with them in their pursuit of a stronger, more inclusive community where every individual has the opportunity to find a place they can call home," **said North Bend Mayor Jessica M. Engelke.**

"The City of Sutherlin is very pleased with this news. Senators Merkley and Wyden have long supported initiatives that provide support services to those in great need and that help find homes for the homeless. This hard-to-find financial assistance will help make these services a reality in our city and provide a brighter future for many citizens. Thank you for your dedication to the least of those among us," **said Pat Lynch, City of Sutherlin Livability Services Director/Library Director.**

"The Oregon Wildlife Foundation appreciates and thanks Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their support of this important wildlife crossing project on I-5 in southern Oregon. This funding allows us to proceed with design and engineering for the fencing element of the wildlife overpass project that the Southern Oregon Wildlife Crossing Coalition and the Oregon Department of Transportation have been working on," **said Tim Greseth, Executive Director, Oregon Wildlife Foundation.**

"Gratitude to U.S. Senators Merkley and Wyden for consistently supporting the causes of saving our fish. Their commitment goes beyond just the funding for our Cole Rivers and our Oregon Hatchery Programs. The cultural, economic, generational and Environmental values of our Salmon and Trout population recoveries is noble and beyond crucial. We're just getting started," **said Court Boice, Coos, Curry and Douglas County State Representative.**

"The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is extremely thankful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for supporting this important work. With this new funding BEF will be able to assist partners in rural Oregon save money, save water, and create more resilient and stable infrastructure long into the future," **said Todd Reeve, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation CEO.**

“An investment in the medical workforce is an investment in all Oregonians in Douglas County. Umpqua Community College is excited to use these funds to outfit laboratory space for new medical careers training programs, and to strengthen partnerships with local medical providers to support the health of the community. Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden for recognizing the importance of an investment in our work,” **said Dr. Rachel Pokrandt, President of Umpqua Community College.**

“We are extremely grateful for Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley’s recognition of the importance of this facility to our community. La Clinica is heartened by the widespread community support for this project, including from local employers, hospital and other healthcare leaders who want to relieve pressure on hospital emergency departments, contain healthcare costs, and improve the area’s ability to respond to disease outbreaks and other emergencies,” **said Brenda Johnson, La Clinica Health CEO.**

“The Klamath Tribes express our gratitude to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their exceptional leadership and dedication in supporting our Forest & Fire Workforce Training Initiative. With this funding, the Klamath Tribes can effectively operationalize our Master Stewardship Agreement with the US Forest Service for ecological restoration. We extend our appreciation to the Senators for fulfilling their commitments to tribal sovereignty and partnership. Their support will significantly bolster tribal and local capabilities to address the pressing forest health and wildfire crisis. This funding will serve as a catalyst, unlocking access to tens of millions of dollars in state and federal funding within the region, enabling us to achieve ecological, cultural, and public values in our homeland,” **said Steve Rondeau, Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Director.**

“We are thrilled by the support of Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden who recognize the importance of recentering Chinese American heritage in our state. This collaborative project will allow us provide educational opportunities for students, volunteers, and community stakeholders as we document and celebrate the many contributions of Oregon's early Chinese residents and the ways in which they helped to shape our modern communities,” **said Chelsea Rose, Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project, SOU.**

“Many thanks to our congressional delegation of Senators Wyden and Merkley along with Representative Salinas for their work in securing funding for the Three Rivers Fiber Broadband project,” **said Doug Olson, Tillamook County Commissioner and Tillamook Lightwave President.** “This is another excellent step forward in bringing high speed internet to rural Oregon. Much of rural Oregon does not yet enjoy high speed internet which is available in more populated areas,” **Olson added.** “The project will continue over the next several years.”

"Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden and Representative Hoyle for championing Glide Revitalization's request for the new Community Resource Center and Little Loggers Daycare in Glide, Oregon. As our community looks to the future, beyond rebuilding from the 2020 Archie Creek Fire, the new center will provide access to critical resources, programs, childcare and

more to help our community thrive for years and generations to come," **said Jeana Beam Southwick, Glide Revitalization Executive Director.**