

## **What Stakeholders in Mid Columbia/Central Oregon Are Saying About the Legislation:**

“Once again, Senators Merkley and Wyden have stepped up to help the Warm Springs Tribe address its ongoing water crisis. This legislation would allow the Tribe to dramatically improve reliable access to clean, running water to thousands of people living on the Warm Springs Reservation,” **said Tribal Council Chairman, Jonathan Smith.**

“We are thrilled and honored that the La Pine CHC Wellness Center Project has been selected for Congressionally Directed Spending appropriation. This project will increase access to necessary healthcare services for the residents of South Deschutes County and the surrounding areas. Thank you to Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley for their support and commitment!” **said Charla DeHate, CEO, La Pine Community Health Center.**

“City of Redmond proudly prioritizes safe and clean water as well as protecting its natural resources. Being awarded funding in the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) portion of the Interior Appropriations bill enables us to accelerate needed investments in our water infrastructure and more efficiently meet the demands of our growing community,” **said Mayor George Endicott.** “This federal support, spearheaded by Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkley, ultimately eases the burden shouldered by water utility rate payers, and enhances needed water capacity for our community to grow and thrive well into the future.”

“Hood River City Council has worked for years to make housing more available and affordable in our community. The leadership shown by Senators Merkley and Wyden helps bring the 780 Rand Rd project closer to realizing our goal of providing homes for over 120 families,” **said Kate McBride, Mayor, City of Hood River.**

“Far too many of our neighbors continue to struggle to afford the cost of housing. We are pleased to see this community initiated affordable housing development receive unwavering support from Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden in the federal appropriations process. An investment of this magnitude will be instrumental in creating an affordable place to call home for over 120 lower income households in Hood River,” **said Joel Madsen, Executive Director, Mid-Columbia Housing Authority and Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation.**

“East Fork Irrigation District, with the support of the Hood River Watershed Group, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other agencies, is working to increase instream flows in the East Fork Hood River and mainstem Hood River while at the same time improving water reliability for EFID farmers and rural residents. The hard work and time that Senator Merkley and his team have put in to make these pipeline projects a possibility will help us achieve our Irrigation Modernization Plan to improve the quality of our rivers, protect habitat for threatened salmon and steelhead, and provide reliable irrigation water for crop production,” **said Steve Papas, Distric Manager, East Fork Irrigation District.**

“OSU-Cascades is partnering with St. Charles Health System, Central Oregon Community College and other regional partners to expand availability of childcare in Deschutes County for low-income students, critical health care workers, and families. We greatly appreciate the support and efforts from Senators Merkley and Wyden to prioritize funds in this bill to help support the development of two new “Little Kits” childcare centers. These new centers will provide critical childcare services for up to 200 infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from Deschutes County families,” **said Kelly Sparks, Associate Vice President of Finance and Strategic Planning for Oregon State University-Cascades.**

“We over the moon to learn that funding for the Mosier Center is included in the Senate Ag Appropriations Bill!!! Thanks to Senators Merkley and Wyden, this crucial funding will enable our vision to become a reality, providing critical infrastructure for fire safety and community resilience for generations to come. This will us get over the finish line!” **said Arlene Burns, Mayor, City of Mosier.**

“As our region emerges from the pandemic, there has never been greater need to prepare people for the many family-wage jobs employers are offering to people with the right skills. This funding will allow our college to meet that need. Training in quality control to meet industry standards, prototyping and precise measurements are just three of the skills this appropriation will make possible through our advanced manufacturing and aviation maintenance technician programs. We also look forward to collaborating with Mid-Columbia Community Action in our construction trades program, again made possible thanks to the efforts of Sen. Merkley and Sen. Wyden. We are deeply appreciative of all their hard work on behalf of our region,” **said Dr. Marta Yera Cronin, President, Columbia Gorge Community College.**

“MCCAC is excited about the opportunity this funding would provide to the Mid-Columbia region as we work to create innovative shelter options while also bolstering our workforce,” **said MCCAC Executive Director, Kenny LaPoint.** “We would like to thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their advocacy and Columbia Gorge Community College for their partnership on this project.”

“This bill includes investments to ensure the essential role community colleges can play in the long-term economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,” **said Dr. Laurie Chesley, president of Central Oregon Community College (COCC).** “We are particularly grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for prioritizing healthcare workforce training in rural Oregon and for helping us to purchase state-of-the-art equipment in order to meet employers’ demands for highly skilled nurses, CNAs, and medical assistants. With this bill’s support, we will be able to serve a new generation of students from Jefferson County and the Warm Springs Reservation.”

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