

"The Oregon Kelp Alliance is excited by this opportunity to engage coastal communities in the work of protecting and restoring Oregon's kelp forests. These essential habitats have undergone significant changes in recent years due to warming oceans, loss of predators, and population booms of purple sea urchins, which eat kelp. **The Oregon Kelp Forest Protection and Restoration Initiative** will put coastal communities to work promoting healthy kelp forests at six sites along the Oregon coast, while building local capacity for continued kelp forest stewardship," **said Tom Calvanese, Project Director, Oregon Kelp Alliance (ORKA)**. Learn more about the Oregon Kelp Alliance (ORKA) at oregonkelp.com

"The Ocean Foundation is excited and honored to serve as the Oregon Kelp Alliance's fiscal sponsor. Our staff members provide financial, administrative, legal, and project counseling support so that project leaders can focus on program planning, fundraising, and outreach. As a result of the services provided, we are confident that the Oregon Kelp Alliance will succeed in its efforts to engage coastal communities and drive change for years to come; and we're grateful for the generous support of all stakeholders," **said Ben Scheelk, Blue Resilience Initiative, The Ocean Foundation**. Learn more about The Ocean Foundation at oceanfdn.org

"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**.

"My administration is working to implement a Body Worn Camera Pilot Program that will be the most progressive in Oregon and among the most progressive in the country," **said Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler**. "We are grateful to Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley for their work to prioritize funding support for this new program. We look forward to the enhanced insight and transparency this program will provide into how Portland Police Bureau officers carry out their duties within our community."

"OSU greatly appreciates the work of Oregon Senators Merkley and Wyden to advance an opportunity for timely and needed investment in work to chart risks and options for navigating the intersections of Oregon's vital fisheries with potential offshore wind energy development," **said Dr. Francis Chan, Director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies at Oregon State University**.

"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."