

What Stakeholders in Eastern Oregon Are Saying About the Legislation:

“The funding of this water project is remarkable. I would like to thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for considering the City of Burns for this critically needed water project,” **said Jerry Woodfin, Mayor of Burns.**

“Our existing water distribution pipelines are crumbling in some areas of the city due to much of it being approximately one hundred years old. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden recognized the essential need to fund this water project. Both senators have proven what many already knew, that they genuinely care for the well-being of all Oregonians throughout this great state,” **said Nancy Gardner, City Manager, City of Burns.**

“The Owyhee Irrigation District is excited and deeply grateful for the support shown by Senators Merkley and Wyden for this project. Piping the first mile of the Kingman lateral will save money and stabilize the embankment, ensuring irrigation delivery to 6,500 acres,” **said Clancy Flynn, General Manager, Owyhee Irrigation District.**

“We are incredibly grateful to Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Ron Wyden for their continued support of higher education and TVCC’s commitment to preparing future generations of healthcare professionals,” **TVCC President Dr. Dana M. Young said.** “A new Nursing & Allied Health Professions Center will ensure that TVCC is prepared to meet changing trends in healthcare education well into the future, while also addressing the immediate workforce needs of healthcare providers both locally and in our region.”

“This is such great news! We are incredibly grateful for the Senators’ efforts to ensure that critical projects like this in rural Oregon get national attention and federal support. The Union County radio system improvements included in this package will replace obsolete equipment and tremendously benefit all public safety agencies in Union and surrounding counties by increasing system integrity and agency interoperability,” **said Nick Vora, Emergency Manager, Union County.**

“It is an honor to be chosen to receive this funding. The Burns Paiute Tribal Council greatly appreciates the opportunity to better serve our people as we build a better tomorrow for all of our community members,” **said the Burns Paiute Tribal Council.**

“The City of Pendleton is thrilled with this news. This funding will allow us to build an arterial road through an undeveloped area that can potentially hold more than 1000 houses --which is much needed in our community,” **said John Turner, Mayor of Pendleton.**

“Community Counseling Solutions is so pleased to hear that our community initiated funding request to remodel our shared Health Department/Behavioral Health/Developmental Disability building in John Day has cleared an important hurdle at the Congressional level. This funding will allow us to complete a desperately needed remodel that provide more space for needed primary care, counseling and developmental disability offices, allow for better integration of

our services, and provide a more efficient use of our space. We are so very grateful to Senators' Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley for their ongoing support," **said Kimberly Lindsay, Executive Director of Community Counseling Solutions.**

"This federal funding will help our region move beyond the short term nitrate emergency and focus on a long-term solution for safe drinking water. Senator Merkley's support during the nitrate emergency has been so valuable. This new source of significant funding will allow Morrow and Umatilla Counties to develop and implement a standardized well testing program for domestic wells as well as develop a feasibility plan for permanent solutions such as public drinking water systems. The bi-county partnership will enhance other work within the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA). We appreciate these joint County efforts and that of the Northeast Oregon Water Association and the Morrow and Umatilla County Planning Departments. We are very thankful that Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden supported this request and realized the critical need for this project," **said Melissa Lindsay, Morrow County Commissioner and Dan Dorran, Umatilla County Commissioner.**

"Irrigon is very excited about this funding. This grant brings opportunities for sustainable growth in our community and our region. The incubator development project will help entrepreneurs to take that first big step toward launching their own business. The City of Irrigon is also grateful to the Port of Morrow for their generous financial and staff support for this project. The project fits hand and glove with the current business developments happening in our community," **said Aaron Palmquist, MBA/PA City Manager, City of Irrigon.**

"Prairie City will truly benefit from this funding, and I can't thank Senators Merkley and Wyden enough for their support. Recent droughts and multiple forest fires have shown the importance of conserving water, the best way to conserve would be to eliminate wasting water by replacing the old pipes and meters," **said Jim Hamsher, Mayor of Prairie City.**

"The La Grande School District has been actively working with the City of La Grande, Grande Ronde Hospital, Union County Commissioners, and many others to identify housing construction and construction trades as a substantial need in our community. Our goal as a school district has been to address our housing, as it is a substantial barrier to maintaining an active and vibrant university, expanding our hospital system, filling manufacturing jobs, and securing District employees interested in relocating to rural eastern Oregon. We are extremely grateful for being selected for funding. We can now implement our goal of designing and building affordable homes – a project that teaches students essential trade skills, builds a sustainable workforce pipeline, and further enhances community pride in our schools. Our current generation of students need relevant and applied learning more than ever and having the opportunity for our school district to expand CTE programs and services will help with their future success and ultimately our community success. The more we can support addressing needed pathways and pipeline job opportunities the better for our future," **said George Mendoza, Superintendent, La Grande School District.**

“We at Harney Hub are excited to hear our project; High Desert Veterans Village, has been advanced by the committee. This brings our 20 units of affordable rental housing, for our veterans, closer to being realized for Harney County and the veterans of Oregon. Thank you to Senator Merkley, Senator Wyden and their teams for their support of our veterans. Their efforts allow us to serve those who have served us,” **said Angela Lamborn, Executive Director, Harney County Senior and Community Services Center.**

“Winding Waters is thrilled to have had our FY23 project selected for CDS funding. This project will ensure that people living in rural Wallowa, Oregon, will have access to affordable dental care close to home. Improving access to integrated dental care will benefit both patients and taxpayers by reducing emergency department visits, reducing the severity and cost of chronic conditions such as diabetes, and improving people's overall oral health and wellness. We can't wait to welcome our patients to our new Wallowa Clinic.” **said Nicolas Powers, MBA, Chief Executive Officer of Winding Waters.**

“We are very thankful for the hard work of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for helping our small rural community with resources that prioritize public safety,” **said Eric C. Bush, Emergency Management Coordinator, Grant County Sheriff's Office.**

“I am pleased to see that Grant County will be receiving Congressionally Directed Spending that is so needed in assisting in the modernization and improvements to our critical infrastructure. Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden have been working hard to help our rural Eastern Oregon counties in a significant fiscal manner,” **said Todd McKinley, Sheriff, Grant County.**

“It is nearly impossible to plan for a specific type of emergency ahead of time, these improvements made to our facility will make it much easier to respond to whatever comes our way,” **said Grant County Judge, Scott Myers.**

“The Harney County Watershed Council works to improve watershed health for the benefit of our communities and the environment. Our Community Based Water Planning Collaborative is a partnership with the Oregon Water Resources Department and a range of stakeholders including agricultural producers and environmental groups. The Collaborative is working to create and implement a plan for our future water use and needs. Learning over the last four years that our basin is over-appropriated for groundwater use and facing multiple years of drought have created a need for this guiding document. We thank Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for the funding that will enable us to complete our plan,” **said Karen Moon, Coordinator, Harney County Watershed Council.**

“I am very thankful that Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Ron Wyden have been so supportive of our Eastern Oregon Resiliency Projects. It not only helps the citizens of Harney County but everyone who travels here to recreate, to pass through and in a catastrophic event. It not only makes us more resilient but it makes the State of Oregon as a whole, more resilient. We appreciate ALL their efforts on our behalf,” **said Suzanne Settle of Harney County Emergency Management.**

“Morrow County is thankful that Senator Jeff Merkley and Senator Ron Wyden and their staff have been actively engaged in our Eastern Oregon Emergency Management Projects. Seeing the Emergency Operations Center Generator included in the list is exciting news for Morrow County. Most of the resiliency projects that I have been involved in over the past few years, will make Eastern Oregon stronger during any catastrophic event, and make all of Oregon more resilient,” **said H Paul Gray, Morrow County Emergency Manager.**

“The economic sustainability of Pacific Northwest wheat production requires healthy research facilities. This investment to maintaining infrastructure and facilities at the Pendleton Research station provides critical support for USDA agriculture researchers who are working to enhance wheat productivity in low and intermediate rainfall zones. I appreciate the advocacy by Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden to secure funds for the ongoing success of the wheat industry in Oregon,” **said Amanda Hoey, Chief Executive Officer, Oregon Wheat Growers League.**

“While very necessary to prolong the life and usefulness of equipment and facilities, money for maintenance is often not sufficient. These new funds provided by Senator Merkley and with Senator Wyden’s support as well, provide the chance to catch up, strengthening research efforts across both USDA ARS and OSU's Pendleton Research Station,” **said Greg Goad, Vice Chairman, OSU/ARS grower Liaison Committee, Pendleton Research Station.**

"At Oregon Food Bank, we believe no one should be hungry — and we work systemically to address both the need for food assistance today and the root causes of hunger," **said Susannah Morgan, Oregon Food Bank CEO.** "Today's investments in the Ontario Community Food Center and Columbia Gorge Food Bank will significantly increase our ability to meet the rising need for food assistance here in Oregon. Thanks to the leadership of Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, we continue to move toward a future where our communities never know hunger."

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