

“The City of Boardman and its partners are excited to hear that this bill is moving forward. This funding will allow us to build our Business incubator building which will provide space for business’s to startup, open and/or relocate to our community. We thank our federal leadership in helping business continue to grow and succeed,” **said Rick Stokoe, City Manager Pro Tem, City of Boardman.**

“These funds will help us increase small business job growth and retention and make a space for enterprising business people to permanently create new jobs and opportunities in rural communities throughout the state,” **said Judy Erwin, R3 Board of Directors.**

“Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden recognize Oregon's rural cities' tremendous potential and need for more capacity and funding to achieve their economic goals. With this help, we'll be able to revitalize Oregon's most distressed rural areas,” **said Nick Green, President, Catalyst Public Policy Advisors.**

“The City of Portland is grateful to Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley for their support of the Office of Community Technology’s Small Business Digital Navigator Training Program, which will provide direct training and support to small businesses and BIPOC entrepreneurs to adapt to new technologies to advance their business in the digital economy,” **said Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Commissioner Carmen Rubio** “To be successful and competitive in today’s digital landscape Portland’s small businesses and BIPOC entrepreneurs need to be able to navigate all the digital tools and platforms at their fingertips and this program will be instrumental in providing the necessary training.”

“Elderberry Wisdom Farm can now gain access to farmland for our people, thanks to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden,” **said Rose High Bear, Founder/Director of Elderberry Wisdom Farm.** “Their support will make it possible for emerging Indigenous entrepreneurs to receive technical assistance and own their own conservation, environmental or agricultural businesses, opening the door for their families to achieve multigenerational prosperity. Thank you!”

“The Oregon Historical Society and our partners across the state are grateful for Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden’s recognition that increasing access to unique historical materials is a true public benefit. This funding will enable greater public engagement with the rich, diverse history that makes Oregon the place it is today!” – **Kerry Tymchuk, Boyle Family Executive Director at OHS.**