

"Farmers Irrigation District is grateful for Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden's support for project funding. This will allow the District to enclose the last 2.5 miles of our main canal, which will increase water security for local farmers and improve watershed resiliency," **said Alexis Vaivoda, Farmers Irrigation District Manager.**

"With Jefferson County declaring yet another drought emergency in 2024, it makes clear the urgency and need for this type of funding to implement projects that provide opportunities for our district to become increasingly drought resilient," **said Mike Britton, Executive Manager of North Unit Irrigation District.** "Absent these proactive actions by Senators Merkley and Wyden, our farms, communities and environment will continue to deteriorate."

"Thank you, Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden, for your generous support of significant facility improvements that have increased the Southwest Polk Fire District's response capabilities, enhancing the safety and well-being of our community," **said Fred Hertel, Fire Chief of the Southwest Polk Fire District.**

"As a conservation district, daily discussions surround the increased demands for climate change mitigation, natural resource conservation, reduced environmental impacts and improved economic stability," **said Cassi Newton, Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District Manager.** "With this funding and the expertise of many partners, we plan to use SWCD property overlooking the John Day River for the development of a mass timber constructed multi-agency community center with locally sourced timber and juniper from Wheeler County to serve as a hub for conservation agencies that will provide much needed modern office, conference, education, and training services that is centrally located in the exceptionally rural district/county."