

What community-initiated project recipients receiving funding in the FY25 Senate Interior-Environment bill are saying about the wins for their communities:

"I am grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their bold leadership to help support durable solutions for community health and resilience," **Governor Tina Kotek said.** "The collaboration between the federal government and the State of Oregon is critical for solving problems and getting things done."

"The City of Tillamook would like to thank Senators Merkley and Wyden for considering our Water Transmission Line Project for this bill. This will greatly benefit our citizens and add crucial resilience to our drinking water system as we continue to strive to deliver safe, clean, drinking water to our community," **said Nathan George, City Manager.**

"Cycle Yamhill County is beyond thrilled with this news. This funding will allow us to build a world class recreational facility in Yamhill County," **said Philip Higgins, Vice-president, Cycle Yamhill County.** "Not only will the Panther Creek Trail System attract visitors and provide local businesses with robust economic benefits, it will be a landmark amenity for local riders of all ages and skills, and a beacon for employers and job seekers who count outdoor recreation opportunities as a "must have" when choosing to relocate. Cycle Yamhill County is deeply grateful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for recognizing our vision of how Outdoor Recreation works as an Economic driver for local communities, and appreciates the investment in this shared economic development vision."

"This grant helps support Metro's, and the region's, work in both economic development and environmental protection. Metro Central processes nearly 70% of greater Portland's business food waste. By investing in this equipment, Metro can support local markets for anaerobic digestion and high-quality composting while helping to reduce harmful microplastics. I'm grateful to our federal delegation for its support of this important tool in our efforts to help our planet," **said Metro Councilor Mary Nolan.**

"The project will provide long term ecological benefits within Lake County's closed basin watersheds that have been impacted by catastrophic wildfires and exceptional drought conditions. The funding will have a direct and immediate impact on economic activity as local contractors implement restorative actions on land and instream. This is a win-win scenario for the local communities and native fish and wildlife in our area," **Brandi Neider, Project Manager, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council said.**

"The City of Talent is thrilled with this news. This funding will allow us to replace the large amount of aging asbestos-cement (AC) pipe in our water distribution system to provide safe and secure water service for our residents for decades to come," **said Mayor Darby Ayers Flood.** "We have been experiencing an increasing number of pipe failures, causing disruptions in the distribution system and creating water loss. Senators Merkley and Wyden understand small cities such as Talent have limited financial resources to repair and replace failing infrastructure. Their support of our financial assistance request to help replace much of our water distribution

system, some of which is more than 60 years old, is particularly important to provide reliable fire protection in an era when wildfires are more prevalent.”

“The Deschutes River Conservancy appreciates Senator Merkley and Wyden’s continued commitment to advance critical water conveyance infrastructure improvements for the communities of Central Oregon. This funding will assist our irrigation district partners in delivering water more reliably to the region’s farmers and ranchers, provide more flexible water management options, and accelerate efforts to restore flows in the Deschutes River, benefiting both fish and wildlife and improving drought resiliency in the Basin,” **said Jim Bond, Program Director at the Deschutes River Conservancy.**

“Oregon DEQ is thrilled to see two funding requests are in the Senate Appropriations bill, which are critically important to addressing environmental challenges facing rural Oregon; groundwater quality and wildfire,” **said Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Director, Leah Feldon.** “Thank you to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for bringing federal funds to the table as the state investigates groundwater quality concerns in Crook County, and as we work to prevent catastrophic wildfire and improve air quality through sustainable management of woody debris.”

“The City of Beaverton is thrilled to have Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden’s support in funding the North Transmission Line Intertie (NTLI) project,” **said Mayor Lacey Beaty, City of Beaverton.** “NTLI will contribute to the sustainability of both Beaverton’s and the region’s water supply and will help us prepare for the future with a seismically resilient water line and additional capacity for our growing community needs.”

"We thank U.S. Senators Merkley and Wyden for their dedication and ongoing support to address groundwater data gaps in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA). The funding request here, along with other federal and state activities, are necessary components to provide long term relief to the people who live and work in the region," **said Ivan Gall, Director of the Oregon Water Resources Department.**

“On behalf of Oregonians and all Americans, The Friends of Timberline are dedicated to the preservation of National Historic Landmark Timberline Lodge. This federal funding is essential in updating the fire suppression system of this remarkable federal facility. We are most appreciative to Senators Merkley and Wyden for championing this important infrastructure need,” **said Jon Tullis, Friends of Timberline Advocacy Chairman.**

“We’ve directly seen the impacts of extreme heat events on historically underrepresented communities in Portland. At Portland State University (PSU), we embrace our motto: ‘Let Knowledge Serve the City,’ and we are grateful to Senators Wyden and Merkley for recognizing the critical role that PSU can play in addressing the urgent challenge of extreme heat through our climate and heat assessment initiative,” **said Rick Tankersley, Vice President, Research and Graduate Studies, Portland State University.**

"The City of Prineville is grateful for the support from Senators Merkley and Wyden to advocate for the needs of Oregon's rural communities like Prineville. The City is very appreciative of this funding that will help to address human health and safety concerns through the extension of water and sewer services," **said Steve Forrester, Prineville City Manager.**

"The Sweet Home Fire District is thrilled and deeply grateful for the incredible support from Senators Merkley and Wyden. With these funds, we aspire to significantly benefit our community through enhanced fire response and fuels mitigation projects. This financial support will enable our wildland division to expand and deliver top-tier service to our community," **said Christian Whitfield, Division Chief of Wildland Operations.**

"The City of John Day would like to thank Senators Merkley and Wyden and staff for their continued support for the rural communities of Oregon. The much needed funds will support John Day's required new wastewater treatment plant while helping keep utility costs manageable for our citizens," **said Melissa Bethel, John Day City Manager.**

"The City of Hermiston is so thankful to Senators Merkley & Wyden for seeing the critical role that the Regional Water System plays in supplying clean drinking water to more than 20,000 Oregonians and supporting the Pacific Northwest's power grid. This cost-effective investment will ensure the resiliency of the system in the face of future power outages," **said Dr. David Drotzmann, Hermiston Mayor.**

"The Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council thanks Senators Merkley and Wyden! The Salmon SuperHwy's progress is only possible because of our collaborative partnership around the shared mission of building lasting infrastructure to benefit the whole community. By replacing undersized and failing culverts, we can reconnect essential habitats for fish and aquatic organisms, while at the same time improving the transportation system, decreasing flooding and increasing climate resilience," **said Staci Merkt, Executive Director, Nestucca, Neskowin, and Sand Lake Watersheds Council.**

"THPRD is grateful to Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden for their tremendous support for funding urban wildfire protection. With 162 natural areas and more than 1,600 acres of land, it is essential that we get the funding to secure these vital natural areas and ensure we are deploying the best wildfire protection practices we can for the safety of our community," **said Barbie Minor, President, THPRD Board of Directors.**