

"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](https://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](https://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**.

"After experiencing the 2020 wildfires evacuation and the work done by our brave public safety fire and law enforcement to get people out of harm's way, this allocation towards an alert system in the Santiam Canyon will be a blessing to those citizens who are still recovering from this tragedy. Having this in addition to our first responders will help if this or other emergencies happen in the future," **said Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron**.

"Investments like this go a long way to establish peace of mind for residents who have encountered such trauma. I'm grateful for these funds and the impact they will have on the members of our communities who suffered so tragically during the 2020 wildfires," **said Marion County Commissioner Danielle Bethell**.

"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.**

"Oregon Tech is thankful to Senators Merkley and Wyden for their tireless efforts in advocating for investments to help build a talented group of career-ready professionals for Oregon's high-tech companies. This investment in the Thin Film Research & Development Center at Oregon Tech will provide our students with a state-of-the-art applied learning environment that prepares them to contribute to and transform the future of Oregon's semiconductor and renewable energy industries," **said Dr. Nagi Naganathan, President, Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech).**

"Thank you to Senators Merkley, Wyden, and Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici for supporting our Transportation Decarbonization Resource Hub at PSU's Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC). This project builds on 15 years of work engaging faculty and students in applied, community-engaged research on multimodal transportation, and has the potential to become a national model for comprehensive assessment of decarbonization efforts," **said Jennifer Dill, Professor and Director of the Transportation Research and Education Center (TREC) at PSU.**

"Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting Benton County's First Responder Radio Infrastructure Improvement plan. The requested funding proposed by Representative Hoyle, would be used by Benton County, Oregon to install an antenna and purchase radios necessary to improve public safety and emergency response for Benton County First Responders. A 2022 Radio Infrastructure Assessment and Improvement Plan revealed a significant challenge with Benton County's radio communications is the lack of interoperability and situational awareness caused by law enforcement and Fire/EMS when utilizing different radio systems. Furthermore, many parts of the rural county have "dead-zones" in which no radio communications are available. Radio infrastructure, as well as handheld and mobile radios, are also in various states of degradation and need updating. This Federal funding would support a 700MHz antenna to be installed on an existing tower and the purchase of radios to eliminate "dead-zones" in the first phase to achieve interoperability between first responders." **Said Benton County Sheriff, Jef Van Arsdall**

"Thank you to Senators Merkley and Wyden for supporting our Body Worn Camera and In-Car Video program. The systems assist the Eugene Police Department in our commitment to accountability and transparency by recording interactions between police officers and the public, capturing evidence, and providing an impartial accounting of events. The Eugene Police Department has been a leader in the State of Oregon on police accountability and has a longstanding body worn camera program. This program coupled with our independent police auditor allows us to continue to build trust between our department and the community we serve. EPD is excited to move forward and stabilize this much needed initiative," **said Chief Chris Skinner of the Eugene Police Department.**

“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.”

“We are grateful for the support of the Congressional delegation in obtaining this funding, which will allow the County to bring cases and records into a digital and searchable format that can be used for law enforcement purposes long into the future. Hard copies of these records currently take up multiple rooms full of storage, and researching records costs us countless hours in personnel time. This funding is going to have a huge impact for Coos County by increasing our efficiencies in our operations and saving us time and money.” **Said Coos County Commissioner, Bob Main**

“The addictions crisis is nation-wide, and in Clackamas County we are taking a proactive approach by engaging with youth for early intervention. Federal funding to extend our pilot program in a local school district will allow the county to collect meaningful data that will inform our work and guide our impact around youth addiction. Thank you to the leadership of Representative Chavez-DeRemer, Senator Wyden, and Senator Merkley for advancing this critical funding,” **said Chair Tootie Smith.**