

# 2019 Clackamas County Federal Legislative Priorities

## Federal Forest Management

### **Federal Forest Management and Oregon & California (O&C) Lands**

Support legislation for responsible management of federal forest lands, including O&C Lands, which will reduce wildfire risk and also improve the financial stability of counties by creating a predictable, long-term solution to county revenue needs. Federal forest legislation should balance economic, social, and environmental values so that significant areas of federal forests are dedicated to the production of forest products in a sustainable manner, while other forests are dedicated to environmental protection.

### **Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act**

Support permanent reauthorization or extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (County Payments) or similar legislation. Extending the Secure Rural Schools Act would continue critical funding to timber dependent counties in Oregon while Congress works to enact legislation to allow for responsible management of federal forest lands. This historically important source of revenue, derived from federal O&C Lands, is critical to timber-dependent counties in Oregon, including Clackamas County.

### **Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)**

Support efforts to develop the Cross Laminated Timber (CLT) industry in Clackamas County, in coordination with strategic Pacific Northwest partners. Clackamas County is well positioned to lead the emergence of the mass timber and CLT industry by addressing the supply chain needed to boost Oregon's productivity. CLT has the potential to create 6,100 direct jobs and 17,300 indirect jobs in Oregon over the next 15 years, while supporting efforts to address climate change through the sequestration of carbon.

### **Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)**

Support reauthorization of PILT, which helps to offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands located within Clackamas County. Clackamas County receives \$700,000 annually from this program.

## Infrastructure

### **I-205 Congestion Relief and Safety Improvement Funding**

Advocate for federal funding to support an additional lane of capacity in each direction of I-205 from Stafford Road to OR 213. The Oregon portion of I-205 is federally designated as a High Priority Corridor and is of vital importance to both the Portland metropolitan region and users

statewide. Without additional travel lanes, this section of I-205 will be overwhelmed by forecasted traffic volumes and will negatively impact regional freight mobility.

### **Sunrise Phase II Funding**

Advocate for federal funding to redevelop the Sunrise Corridor, improving opportunities for affordable housing and increasing access to thousands of acres of employment lands. Much of the Sunrise Corridor is a federally designated Opportunity Zone. Phase II would stretch from 122nd Ave. to 172nd Ave.

### **Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grants Funding**

Support the continuation of the federal BUILD grant program, which provides capital funding for large transportation projects.

### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)**

Support continued funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program, which is a federal-state partnership that provides communities a permanent, independent source of low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects.

### **Clean Water Act**

Support efforts to revise EPA administrative rules on the Clean Water Act that increase the ability of NPDES permit holders to address needs related to outdated technology, standards, and operational frameworks while continuing to ensure the cleanest water possible within areas of responsibility.

### **Brownfields**

Support continued funding for brownfields remediation, important for redeveloping key employment lands and revitalizing natural areas that enhance water quality.

### **Net Neutrality**

Support restoration of net neutrality, ensuring that Internet service providers treat all data on the Internet equally.

### **Telecommunications Infrastructure Regulations**

Support legislation or rulemaking that reverses restrictions on local government authority over telecommunications infrastructure in the public right-of-way.

## **Willamette Falls Projects**

### **Willamette Falls Legacy Project**

Support efforts to aid in the redevelopment of the 23-acre former Blue Heron paper mill site adjacent to Willamette Falls in Oregon City. Clackamas County has been working in partnership with Oregon City, Metro, and the State of Oregon to explore the feasibility of redeveloping the site, which presents significant structural and environmental challenges. The site's location

provides a rare opportunity for a unique economic redevelopment project that would complement and strengthen Oregon City's downtown and create a regionally-significant visitor amenity and historic tourist attraction to benefit the local economy.

### **Willamette Falls Locks**

Support the repairing and reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks to restore river navigation to the Willamette River. The Locks bridge the upper and lower stretches of the Willamette River, without which the Willamette becomes two disconnected rivers for navigation purposes.

### **Willamette Falls Heritage Area**

Support federal designation of the Willamette Falls National Heritage Area. Designation as a historic area will strengthen the identity of the historic working communities of Oregon City and West Linn by preserving and promoting their distinctive natural, cultural, scenic, recreational, and industrial resources. Clackamas County remains an active partner in the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition and fully supports federal designation of the Willamette Falls as a National Heritage Area.

### **Willamette Falls Salmon/Steelhead Migration**

Support efforts to address aggressive sea lions at Willamette Falls, which pose a danger to river users and are threatening endangered salmon and steelhead runs.

## **Health, Housing & Human Services**

### **Funding for Housing Programs**

Support no less than \$3.3 billion in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula funding, which assists the County with constructing infrastructure improvements in low-income areas; Support no less than \$1.2 billion in formula funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), which is a keystone in the development of any affordable housing projects in the County; Support \$2.6 billion for Homeless Housing Assistance grants, including at least \$270 million for the Emergency Solutions Grant program plus an amount to fully fund expiring supportive housing and Shelter Plus Care rent subsidy contracts; Support full funding for existing Housing Choice Voucher (formerly known as Section 8) project-based and tenant-based rental contracts, full funding for administrative fees under existing administrative fee methodology to cover the cost of administering the program, and \$500 million in Section 108 Loan Guarantee authority. The Voucher Program provides assistance to 1,531 families in Clackamas County that rent units in the private rental housing market.

### **Veteran Homelessness**

Support continued appropriation of resources through the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grant program, and the Grants and Per Diem program to support the goal of ending homelessness among veterans and military families.

### **Public Health Funding**

Support funding for evidence-based public health programs, including: the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Women, Infants, and Children Program; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Safe Drinking Water Program; and the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) programs for family planning, opioid abuse, dependence and overdose prevention, infectious disease prevention and control, and chronic disease prevention. These programs are critical to assisting public health departments with prevention activities, as well as efforts to prepare for responding to a range of public health threats.

### **Prevention Funding - Youth Development Funds**

Support current or increased levels of funding for Title 20 programs, which help the Oregon Department of Education fund additional PreventNet school-based sites in Clackamas County.

### **Medicaid Funding and Enrollment**

Support current or expanded levels of Medicaid enrollment. Support maintaining the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

### **Weatherization and Energy Assistance Programs**

Oppose funding reductions to the Department of Health & Human Services’ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Department of Energy’s Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program. Clackamas County receives approximately \$1 million per year in federal energy assistance to help meet the heat and electricity needs of more than 3,000 low-income households in the County.

## **Public Safety**

### **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)**

Support the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP), which is a primary source of federal funding for building and sustaining national preparedness programs. HSGP funds activities in planning, organization, equipment purchasing, training, and exercises.

### **Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)**

Support the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP), which provides federal funding for disaster preparedness planning for hospitals and health systems within the Portland metropolitan region.

### **9-1-1 Funding**

Support legislation to improve operations, NextGen 9-1-1 development, and funding for 9-1-1 centers.

### **UASI Areas Security Initiative (UASI)**

Support funding for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) program, which provides grants to assist high-threat, high-density urban areas in efforts to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

These grants are key to enhancing the Portland metropolitan region's preparedness efforts for threats or acts of terrorism.

### **Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)**

Support continuation of grant funding for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program as a stand-alone grant and process, which provides approximately \$160,000 annually to the County's emergency management program. EMPG is the backbone of the nation's emergency management system and provides key assistance in building and implementing the county's emergency management capabilities. The grant includes funding for staff and program materials for emergency management plan updates, relationship building, response, and recovery. It is important that funding continue in order to support local emergency management as the number and frequency of natural disasters in the United States continue to rise.

### **First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)**

Support FirstNet, which was created by Congress in 2012 and is working to build, operate, and maintain the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. This network will be an essential tool to first responders on life-saving missions.

### **Juvenile Justice Grant Funding**

Support increased federal investment in juvenile justice programs. Federal appropriations to states, localities and tribes for key federal juvenile justice programs have been cut dramatically in the last decade: since 2002, funding for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) Title II State Formula Grants Program has declined by 50%; funding for JJDP Title V Local Delinquency Prevention Grants Programs has been cut by nearly 80%; and funding for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (JABG) has been reduced by 90%. Despite the fiscal climate, federal funds to support state and local juvenile justice standards and improvements must be considered essential investments. These monies support programs that are based in evidence, proven to prevent delinquency, and reduce recidivism and increase public safety - critical investments that are worth the cost.

### **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)**

Support reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), which established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. Reauthorization is critical to providing research, resources, and application of best practices in juvenile justice throughout Clackamas County.