



April 15, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeffery Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley and Representatives Blumenauer and Schrader:

We would like to amplify the State of Oregon's request for increased vaccine allocations that was submitted to the Biden Administration in early April. Positive COVID-19 cases are rising in Clackamas County and businesses are now going through another round of reducing capacity. We know the COVID-19 vaccine is the way to beat this disease and bring our community back to health.

Oregon has the lowest hospital capacity per capita in the nation according to a Kaiser Family Foundation study. To ensure our hospital systems were not overwhelmed, we followed strict public health guidance and restrictions throughout the course of the pandemic. Because of the sacrifices made by our residents, Oregon has maintained some of the lowest case counts and death from COVID-19 in the nation. We feel that we are being penalized for our efforts and sacrifices when it comes to vaccine allocations to Oregon. Therefore, we join the [State of Oregon in "raising a ruckus"](#) in the inadequate amount of vaccine supply coming into our state.

Oregon needs vaccination allocations to reflect that we have less hospital beds per capita compared to other states. When case counts increase the spread of the disease increases in our community and puts individuals at high risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and even death. We request that you do everything in your power to ensure Oregon is receiving enough vaccine in a timely period to keep people out of the hospital. Please ensure that our residents and businesses in Clackamas County who have lost so much through three disasters within 11 months are prioritized when the White House determines vaccine allocations and timelines for Oregon.