

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Board of Commissioners Office

Commissioners

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August 5, 2020

Honorable Senate President Peter Courtney
Honorable House Speaker Tina Kotek
Members of the Joint Emergency Board

From:
Columbia County Board of Commissioners

Re: CRF Distribution to Local Governments

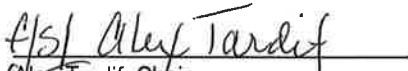
During the past 5 months, we in County Government have been on the ground dealing with the social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Public Health and Emergency Management teams have gone above and beyond their regular scope of work to provide the guidance, supplies, and services that our citizens need to weather this crisis. We have identified the needs of our citizens and have made every effort to fulfill those needs. We have spent countless hours on planning strategies and on record keeping for reimbursement, through both the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and FEMA, for the expenses we have and will continue to incur as a response to the pandemic.


We encourage the State of Oregon to distribute the additional \$200 million of the local share of funding directly to the local governments and allow local governments to spend those funds based on the needs of their communities for the uses allowed under U.S. Treasury guidance. We request that any actions included on the August 5 Emergency Board agenda, relating to these local funds, be tabled and that a process for direct allocation to the local communities be established.

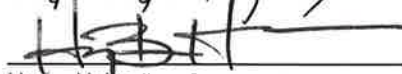
Each local entity has different needs. These needs are best identified by those working directly with and hearing daily from the citizens. We strongly urge you to seriously consider our request.

Sincerely,

Board of County Commissioners


Alex Tardif, Chair


Margaret Magruder, Commissioner


Henry Heimuller, Commissioner