



OREGON
STATE
TREASURY

October 23, 2020

The Honorable Speaker Tina Kotek
The Honorable President Peter Courtney
Oregon Legislative Emergency Board
State Capitol, Salem Oregon

Dear Emergency Board Co-Chairs and Members:

We write to you in our functions as co-chairs of the Governor's Wildfire Economic Recovery Council.

In our two meetings as a council we have reviewed the level of destruction, immediate and long-term challenges for our communities, and many of the decisions required at all levels of government to facilitate a rapid, but prudent, launch of recovery efforts.

Our council was provided with information regarding the overall financing of recovery efforts consisting of three options: Direct Federal Assistance; State Managed, Locally Coordinated; and Locally Managed.

Each option presents trade-offs between decision-making authority, financial risk, and accountability. We have considered and examined these trade-offs to the maximum degree possible in a short timeframe.

It is our recommendation, and that of the Council, that Oregon pursue the State Managed, Locally Coordinated option. This reflects not only our considerations, but also the recommendations of the regional advisory groups convened in each of the fire affected areas. We believe the State Managed, Locally Coordinated approach strikes the best balance between control, speed, and risk among the very complicated and expensive options available to address such an unprecedented disaster. Additionally, we strongly support the Emergency Board request from ODOT to increase its Other Fund expenditure limitation by \$295,700,000 for hazard tree removal, and the additional \$50 million General Fund allocation from the Emergency Fund for ash and debris removal. These are critical actions necessary for the state to begin its rebuild and recovery process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Val Hoyle".

Val Hoyle
Commissioner, Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tobias Read".

Tobias Read
Oregon State Treasurer