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December 17, 2020

Office of Governor Kate Brown
900 Court Street NE, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

On behalf of the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments' Board of Directors and **our 43 member governments** representing 32 cities, 3 counties, 7 special districts and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, we are **asking the Governor's Office and Legislature to provide immediate response and stabilization funding for the communities impacted by the unprecedented wildfires in September 2020.**

They need is great, immediate, and requires swift, and decisive action. *They are our neighbors and deserve our help.*

The impacted local governments are working on mid-range and long-term recovery planning needs with Business Oregon and the Oregon Wildfire Recovery Council. **These cities need immediate staffing capacity to respond and stabilize communities that are either unincorporated or have a staff of 1-2 persons and all volunteer Councils and Mayors- many of whom have themselves lost their homes and city halls.**


We ask for immediate funding for:

- **Staffing** – funding for current and increased FTE to support public works, city recorders, city managers, financial analysts, legal counsel, etc.;
- **Infrastructure**- Replacement of damaged/destroyed infrastructure such as government buildings, transportation networks, telecommunications, water/wastewater (including private/on-site systems), etc.; and
- **Visioning**- support to support these communities in kicking off the long-term recovery goals and visioning processes within their communities.

For Example, the Detroit City Hall was destroyed in the fire. This included the destruction of years of city records. Along with the other cities, city government/staff continue to try to function, including city council meetings and conducting general needed city business, in addition to all of the demands and needs of response and recovery and rebuilding efforts. This cannot be completed by the FTE that existed prior to the fires.

In closing, we are **asking you to provide resources for immediate staff support to these communities..... It's the Oregon way.**

Below are members of the Board of Directors that voted, unanimously, to directed this communication


Jackie Franke, Chair
COG Board of Directors
Chemeketa Community College Board
member

Councilor Sal Peralta, Vice Chair
MWVCOG Board of Directors
City of McMinnville

Commissioner Sam Brentano
Marion County

Commissioner Mike Ainsworth
Polk County

Commissioner Casey Kulla
Yamhill County

Mayor Brian Dalton
City of Dallas

Mayor Cathy Clark
City of Keizer

Councilor Roxanne Beltz
City of Monmouth

Mayor Rick Rogers
City of Newberg

Mayor Chuck Bennett
City of Salem

Mayor Eric Swenson
City of Woodburn

Mayor Shanti Platt
City of Gervais/Small Cities of Marion
County

Mayor John McArdle
City of Independence/Small Cities of Polk
County

Mayor Michael Cape
City of Amity/Small Cities of Yamhill County

Tribal Councilwoman Lisa Leno
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Lisa Rogers
Chehalem Parks & Recreation District

Terry Hsu
Marion Soil & Water Conservation District

Sherrone Blasi
Salem/Keizer School District

Ian Davidson
Salem-Keizer Transit District

Frank Pender, Jr.
Willamette Educational Services District