



Dear President Courtney, Speaker Kotek, and Oregon Legislative Emergency Board,

On behalf of the Black Indigenous People of Color Caucus (BIPOC), we are writing to request that the Oregon Legislative Emergency Board provide emergency and critical funding in the amount of \$301,050 from the two million dollar package request for the Municipal Wildfire Assistance to immediately support Santiam Canyon cities of Idanha, Detroit, Gates, and Mill City to address urgent capacity needs due to the wildfires.

On September 7, 2020, multiple wildfires spread rapidly across Oregon including the Beachie Creek and Lionshead Wildfires that swept through the Santiam Canyon. The wildfires, strengthened by straight-line winds, damaged or destroyed more than 700 residential parcels and 85 commercial parcels of land (lots), in addition to more than 193,000 acres of public and private forest lands, resulting in catastrophic and tragic loss of public and private property, natural resources, and significant economic capacity. The wildfires almost completely destroyed the cities of Detroit and Gates, and heavily impacted Mill City, as well as other canyon communities. The displacement of residents, workforce opportunities, and housing s puts these communities at significant risk, compromising their recovery from the wildfires.

Disruption of local city governments and services has put undue burden on city personnel and elected officials in the Santiam Canyon, including staffing capacity, constrained tax bases, and in many cases dealing with the financial impact of destroyed city infrastructure, buildings, and properties. The counties are committed to coordinating with these cities to address the demands created by the wildfires: assessing current losses, identifying immediate and long term recovery goals, investigating funding opportunities, land use planning, rebuilding, and addressing the requirements of FEMA and other funding agencies. While these cities have the resiliency to recover, they will not be able to do so without substantial resources and additional support. We, the BIPOC Caucus fully support the counties' request to the Emergency Board is for immediate and practical support for the canyon cities to assist them in meeting the demands and requirements for recovery.

The \$301,050 will fund an increase in staff capacity in city governments. It will specifically be used for hiring or contracting a city manager, city staff including a city legal expert, and for land use planning and city engineering services. These additional staff members and services will ensure that local city governments have the resources they need to navigate the challenges of recovery and guarantee the people of Santiam Canyon the support they need.

Sincerely,



Teresa Alonso Leon
Oregon House of Representatives
District 22



Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
District 22



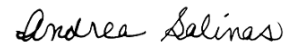
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Andrea Salinas
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