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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.**

Their 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

  
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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