

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 47: Business Development Department Opal Creek Area Economic Development

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: Joint Emergency Board Subcommittee on Education
Carrier: Senator Taylor

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Business Development Department by \$2,000,000 for the expenditure of grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Services, to provide grants and loans for economic development projects that benefit communities in the vicinity of the Opal Creek Wilderness area.

The \$2 million is a portion of a total of \$15 million in federal funding was authorized to address economic development for communities near the Opal Creek Wilderness Area to mitigate the potential loss of timber revenues for those communities. The grant funding was appropriated in federal fiscal year 2022 and provided to the Business Development Department via Congressionally Directed Spending. This funding will be used in partnership with Marion County to support the Beachie Creek Trail project connecting downtown Gates with the Maples Rest Area. The remaining \$13 million is anticipated to be made available in the 2023 federal fiscal year.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.