

Living in rural America is one of the great benefits of my life. Unfortunately rural towns are often at the bottoms of the funding barrel. Since we are all one large community out here I speak about eastern Oregon communities, not just one. Our communities are hard pressed for funding to repair streets, roads and bridges. We are still trying to repair damages in the wake of a 100 year flood last year. Cities cannot get repairs completed on roads and streets in our towns. Our children look for activities that allow them to develop healthy relationships, yet very little is done. In our immediate area (Milton-Freewater/Athena/Weston/Adams/Pendleton) there is one movie theater, one bowling alley, one ice hockey rink, several swimming pools, two skate parks, and that's about it. We support the fundamentals of lively communities, safety, schools, small and large businesses, growing economy, prospering farming and small business. Funds could certainly help develop and repair out green venues. Funding to support our arts and entertainment, eliminate eye sore buildings or damaged and unrepairable buildings, support businesses that encourage tourism. All of the same things that large towns want, we want. It seems inappropriate for large towns to keep draining away major funding while rural America, having paid their share like every other community, continue to sit at the bottom of the pile.