



May 7, 2021

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
HB 3127: Wildfire Funding**

The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners appreciates the legislature's funding support for projects associated with the 2020 wildfires. In addition to the projects listed in the -1 amendment of HB 3127, Clackamas County respectfully requests \$3 million to address a pressing need to deploy enhanced broadband in some of our underserved rural communities that experienced power and internet outages as a result of the Riverside Fire. State funding would allow the Clackamas Broadband eXchange to construct new aerial and underground fiber optic cable in areas that lack adequate service due to their rural density, including near the cities of Estacada and Molalla, and on Mt. Hood. These critical infrastructure upgrades would enable county residents to maintain internet communication until services can be restored following a future disaster.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, which would ensure that our rural communities are better prepared for the next disaster.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.