

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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February 10, 2026

The Honorable Ron Wyden and The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley:


The Columbia County Board of Commissioners supports the City of Clatskanie's request for \$5 million in federal funding to complete construction of a new wastewater treatment plant.

Clatskanie's existing wastewater treatment facility, constructed in 1977, is operating beyond its intended design capacity and has experienced ongoing structural and mechanical failures. These conditions have resulted in regulatory challenges and environmental impacts affecting the Clatskanie River and underscore the need to replace this essential piece of infrastructure to protect public health and ensure regulatory compliance.

The total cost of the project exceeds \$33 million, and the City has already secured approximately \$22 million in financing, including American Rescue Plan Act and Community Development Block Grant funds. Despite these commitments, a significant funding gap remains. Federal investment will help limit the financial burden on residents, protect water quality, and support the City of Clatskanie's long-term economic stability. The Columbia County Board of Commissioners respectfully urges your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON


Kellie Jo Smith, Chair


Casey Garrett, Commissioner


Margaret Magruder, Commissioner