



## Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, OR 97141

Phone: 503-842-3403

Erin D. Skaar, Chair

Mary Faith Bell, Vice-Chair

David Yamamoto, Commissioner

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March 1, 2023

Dear U.S. Senators Wyden and Merkley:

On behalf of Tillamook County, we wish to express our support of the request being submitted by Tillamook County Community Actions Resources Enterprises, Inc. (CARE) for 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending. CARE seeks to create a navigation center to support individuals who are unhoused with a safe place to be. This project is phase two of a collaborative effort in creating a behavioral health resource network and making low-barrier housing available to improve lives and safety of this highly vulnerable population in Northwestern Oregon.

Tillamook County collaborated with CARE in completing a community stakeholder process in 2021 to identify the greatest needs in our county relating to those experiencing homelessness. Coming out at the top of the list were low-barrier shelter and coordination of services. Tillamook County and CARE have continued to work together to meet these identified needs; working together to receive \$1 million from the State of Oregon to work on coordination of services under House Bill 4123. CARE has further partnered with the county and many of the stakeholders from the community process to make low-barrier housing available.

All the above-mentioned work leads directly in the next need, a navigation center. Currently, there are no navigation centers or day-use areas for unhoused people to get out of the elements and receive case management services in Tillamook County. Additional funding for this center would provide bathrooms, showers, kitchen, and wi-fi for people to utilize while they are trying to find housing, employment and even work on their recovery of substance use disorders.

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners supports CARE's request for 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending. The citizens of Tillamook County will receive many benefits from the navigation center as together we lower barriers to helping people successfully transition into long-term housing.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON

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Erin D. Skaar, Chair

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Mary Faith Bell, Vice-Chair

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David Yamamoto, Commissioner