



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

March 1, 2023

Dear U.S. Senators Wyden and Merkley:

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners wishes to express support of the request submitted by the Salmon SuperHwy for 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending. The Salmon SuperHwy is a unique collaborative group of local, state, federal, non-governmental organizations, and partners working together to reconnect fish habitat in Tillamook County. With a goal of removing instream barriers to fish passage and replacing them with right-sized structures designed for climate resiliency, this work has multiple ecological, economic, and social benefits.

The rate of culvert failure is predicted to increase across our region as these structures near the end of their service life. Culvert failures impact emergency response, can isolate a community, are a public safety concern. Many of our stream crossing structures had an original service life of 50 to 75 years, and we are rapidly approaching that timeframe. The Salmon SuperHwy does not have adequate funding for all restoration projects on private and public lands.

Using a strategic approach, Salmon SuperHwy partners have identified the highest priority projects that would provide the largest return on investment, and ultimately our work will restore access for six species of ocean-going fish to 95% of their historic habitat, while building climate resiliency into Tillamook County's streams and transportation network.

The Tillamook County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the Salmon SuperHwy 2024 Congressionally Directed Spending request to improve resiliency. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful review and consideration.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON

Erin D. Skaar, Chair

Mary Faith Bell, Vice-Chair

David Yamamoto, Commissioner