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NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon legislature advances investments to build a strong, equitable recovery

*Responding to a year of crises, game-changing federal support solidifies 2021-23 budget
focused on rebuilding the economy and supporting vulnerable Oregonians*

SALEM – Nearing the conclusion of the 2021 legislative session, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means today advanced multiple budget bills that make transformative investments in housing, wildfire recovery, behavioral health, racial equity, water infrastructure, and more.

“This year started with the prospect of budget cuts due to the pandemic recession, which would have been devastating for Oregonians who had already suffered so greatly,” budget co-chair Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) said. “Thankfully, due to game-changing federal support and a strong state revenue forecast, we’re concluding this session by making transformative investments to support Oregonians across the state. We’re keeping our promise to Oregonians that we’ve got their backs and can rebuild toward a more equitable, just, and vibrant future.”

In addition to approving strong agency budgets, new investments approved by the budget committee for the 2021-23 biennium are highlighted below:

Strengthening Public Education

- K-12 State School Fund - \$9.3 billion
- Increased funding for the Student Success Act, including \$892 million in student investment grants and \$436 million for Early Learning
- Additional K-12 highlights:
 - \$17.5 million for broadband access for schools
 - Establishment of an education plan for LBGTQ+ student success
 - Increased funding for the Latinx student success plan
 - STEM program funding targeted for diverse students

- \$125 million for capital improvement matching funds and \$110 million for seismic rehabilitation grants
- Higher Education
 - Public University Support Fund - \$900 million
 - Community College Support Fund - \$703 million
 - Oregon Opportunity Grant - \$200 million (nearly \$30 million increase)
 - Funding to help cover health insurance costs for eligible part-time faculty
 - \$337 million for university construction projects and deferred maintenance at all public universities
 - \$77 million for matching funds to help finance 11 community college construction projects
 - \$5 million for new Benefits Navigator positions at community colleges and public universities (HB 2835)
- Early Learning
 - \$68 million to expand preschool programs, adding more than 4,000 slots
 - \$9.5 million to establish the Early Childhood Suspension and Expulsion Prevention Program, establish a statewide social emotional learning framework, and enact provisions to diversify Oregon's educator workforce (HB 2166)
 - Start-up costs for the new Department of Early Learning and Care (HB 3073)
 - Increased funding for relief nurseries, the Early Childhood Equity Fund and for parenting education
 - Establishment of a new Tribal Early Learning Hub (HB 2055)

Transforming Behavioral Health

- \$302 million for new Behavioral Health Resource Networks and addiction treatment services established through the passage of Ballot Measure 110 (2020)
- \$130 million for capital, start-up, and operational costs related to increasing statewide capacity of licensed residential facilities and housing for people with behavioral health needs
- \$121 million to support the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics model
- \$50 million for the alignment of outcomes, roles, responsibilities, risk and incentives in Oregon's behavioral health system
- \$31 million for opening two 24-bed patient units at the Oregon State Hospital Junction City campus, which will make more bed space available at the Salem campus, and a \$20 million special purpose appropriation for increased staffing levels
- \$21 million for community restoration and clinical services, rental assistance and wraparound support, and supporting the needs of individuals who have been ordered by a court to receive services enabling them to assist in their own criminal defense
- \$6.5 million for mobile response and stabilization services for children with behavioral health needs
- \$5.7 million for interdisciplinary assessment team services for youth with intensive behavioral health needs

Tackling the Housing Crisis

- \$410 million for the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs
- \$130 million for affordable housing preservation and affordable housing property acquisition loan programs
- \$100 million for construction, rebuilding, and financing initiatives for housing for displaced survivors of the Labor Day 2020 wildfires
- \$94 million for other housing initiatives, including shelter operations, down payment assistance, affordable homeownership development, manufactured home park preservation, and operational capacity for organizations administering rental assistance programs
- \$30 million to cover 100% of missed rental payments for applications submitted to the Landlord Compensation Fund and \$5 million for a landlord risk fund (SB 278)
- \$20 million for the Behavioral Health Housing Incentive Fund (HB 2316)
- \$10 million for the Healthy Homes Repair Fund (HB 2842)
- \$5 million for domestic violence/sexual assault survivor housing assistance
- \$4.8 million for fair housing enforcement
- \$4.5 million for long-term rental assistance for youth at risk of homelessness (HB 2163)
- \$3.6 million for unaccompanied homeless youth (HB 2544)

Investing in Wildfire Recovery and Disaster Preparedness

- \$200 million for essential workforce and local communities on the frontlines, managing and mitigating wildfires (SB 762)
- \$150 million reserved in a special purpose appropriation to address natural disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities, including potential responses to the drought crisis in the Klamath Basin
- \$150 million for wildfire recovery housing
- \$75 million for food and shelter for wildfire-impacted communities
- \$28 million for planning and rehabilitation of high-hazard dams
- \$23 million for reimbursement to counties for lost tax revenues
- \$20 million for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant match
- \$20 million for grants for fire hardening and energy efficiency during rebuilding
- \$19.75 million for grants for riparian and upland restoration, as well as floodplain restoration and reconnection
- \$15 million for levee inspection, accreditation, certification, or repair project grants
- \$6 million total for firefighter apprenticeships to the Jackson County Fire District, Clackamas Fire District and Eugene Springfield Fire Department (\$2 million each)

Focusing on Racial Equity

- \$100 million for the implementation of the Cover All People program (HB 3352)

- \$11.7 million for the Oregon Youth Employment Program, along with statute changes to ensure at least 75% of participating youth are from communities of color, rural communities, or historically underrepresented communities (HB 2092)
- \$10 million to compensate local governments for the elimination of individual post-prison supervision fees (SB 620)
- \$10 million special purpose appropriation for the Transforming Justice Initiative
- \$10 million capitalization of the Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity Loan Fund
- \$10 million for loan-loss reserve program grants to lenders to address institutional and social barriers that have made access to capital nearly impossible for small business owners, especially those in rural, veteran and BIPOC communities (HB 2266)
- \$9 million for technical assistance to underrepresented businesses in the Oregon Business Development Department
- \$4 million for the Criminal Justice Commission to establish a new restorative justice grant program
- \$3.8 million for the Oregon Diversity Procurement Program
- \$2 million to the Innovation Law Lab for immigration defense
- \$1.5 million for the Reimagine Safety Fund
- \$1.2 million for the expungement of criminal records for marijuana infractions
- \$1.2 million for a diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative at the Oregon Youth Authority
- \$1 million for equitable water access and \$500,000 for indigenous energy resiliency in the Water Resources budget
- \$905,000 for implementing the Sanctuary Promise Act (HB 3265)
- \$600,000 to the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission for start-up costs for developing nontraditional pathways to licensure
- \$500,000 for a study of the impacts of State School Fund spending and to determine if this spending pattern results in disparities between students who are Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC) and non-BIPOC students
- Two positions in the Department of Forestry for DEI, environmental justice, sustainability officer, and liaison to tribal governments
- One position for a DEI Officer at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- A bilingual compliance specialist position to support Spanish speakers in the investigation of wage claims and complaints (BOLI)
- A full-time DEI specialist at BOLI to work proactively with apprenticeship training agents to develop strategies and supports to ensure greater participation and success for women and minorities in apprenticeship
- Two new language access positions to improve translation services in the state legislature: a Language Access Coordinator to develop and implement a plan to provide language access services, and a Spanish Language Interpreter to provide in-house Spanish language interpretation and translation

Improving Water Systems

- \$276 million for drinking water, stormwater, and sanitary sewer water projects statewide using American Rescue Plan Act funds (see HB 5006)
- \$95 million to capitalize grant and loan funds for water projects
- \$71 million for enhanced capacity, planning support, stakeholder engagement, water quality, groundwater and surface water availability and allocation, groundwater well and septic system financial assistance programs, and environmental protection programs

Supporting a Strong Economic Recovery

- \$193 million to strengthen the state's long-term care system and workforce, including:
 - \$113 million for provider rate increases to support higher wages for workers in assisted living facilities, memory care facilities, adult foster homes, and skilled nursing facilities
 - \$30 million for the Oregon Essential Workforce Health Care Program (SB 800)
 - \$30 million for capital improvement and emergency preparedness grants for long-term care facilities
 - \$11.7 million for workforce development and training
- \$50 million for the Community Renewable Investment Fund to provide grants for eligible community renewable energy projects (HB 2021)
- \$50 million for grants to support local independent movie theaters and businesses in the live events industry as they recover from business closures due to the pandemic
- \$25 million to facilitate new private investments in Oregon with a focus on leading or emerging business sectors
- \$10 million for the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant program
- \$10 million for the residential rooftop solar rebate program
- \$10 million to recapitalize the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund for cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields properties and \$5 million to create the Oregon Brownfield Properties Revitalization Fund to provide forgivable loans to private owners for the reimbursement of removal or remedial actions (HB 2518)
- \$5.8 million for nutrition and anti-hunger programs, including Double-up Food Bucks and the Oregon Hunger Response Fund

Improving Transportation Infrastructure

- \$80 million for safety improvements to Oregon 213/82nd Avenue
- \$32 million for Phase II of the Newberg Dundee Bypass (OR-219 section)
- \$5 million for the Hood River-White Salmon Interstate Bridge
- \$4 million for the Sunrise Gateway Corridor Community Visioning Concept
- \$3.3 million for rehabilitation of the Lake County Railroad

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