



Office of Senator Aaron Woods

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Oregon Senate Invests in Rural Economic Development

Investments will support rural and coastal small businesses and agriculture

SALEM, Ore. - Today, with bipartisan support, the Oregon Senate passed [House Bill 3410](#), which allocates \$32.2 million to improve rural infrastructure and promote revitalization throughout the state. The bill includes the following provisions:

- \$10 million for the Regional Revitalization Strategies Consortium. This money will be used for grants and loans to develop housing in rural areas and small cities. Additionally, \$1.2 million is allocated to the Oregon Coast Visitors Association to help businesses focused on regional food systems.
- \$3.5 million is provided to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to support the outdoor recreation economy and maritime workforce.
- \$6.5 million is granted to the Oregon Business Development Department. This funding will be used for grant programs related to county fairgrounds, the outdoor gear industry, and to support small business development centers.
- \$9 million is allocated to the Department of Agriculture to support a grant program that assists meat processors in meeting the requirements of the State Meat Inspection Program.

“This bill reflects our dedication to economic empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and supporting local businesses,” **Senator Aaron Woods (D - Wilsonville)**, co-chair of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development. “Together, we are building a stronger Oregon where every individual and community can thrive and achieve their full potential.”

Promoting economic opportunity in every corner of the state is part of [Senate Democrats' 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 3410 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, HB 3410 now moves to the Governor's desk for consideration.

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