



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

PRESS RELEASE ON BEHALF OF JACKSON COUNTY

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Jackson County Board of Commissioners Request a Review & Audit of the State of Oregon Process Concerning Grant Funding Designed to Help Communities Impacted by the 2020 Almeda & South Obenchain Fires

JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON — On May 30, 2024, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners sent a letter to Oregon Governor Tina Kotek and Oregon Secretary of State LaVonne Griffin-Valade concerning the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) administration of the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR).

The letter shared the Board of Commissioners' concerns regarding the OHCS administration of the CDBG-DR funding in response to the 2020 Almeda and South Obenchain Fires, which devastated communities located in Jackson County. Specifically, there are significant concerns about the process used by OHCS.

The letter shares:

- Jackson County's continued and steadfast commitment to the outcomes while our community rebuilds and as the CDBG-DR begins to award grants.
- Concerns about the way the OHCS inconsistently and indiscriminately applied and communicated conflicts of interest during the process, including Commissioner Dotterrer's role.

- The Jackson County Board of Commissioners is seriously concerned that the OHCS intends to take a 30 percent administration fee on the funds granted. This results in \$4,155,000 of funds that should be awarded to help the community recover from the 2020 Fires.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners request that, because of these concerns and others, the State of Oregon review and audit the entire process and conclusions.

Attached is the complete letter.

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