



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

April 29, 2021

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am respectfully requesting funding to support an Emergency Radio Communications System for Coos County, Oregon, in the amount of \$231,000 within the Committee's Community Project Funding effort.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Coos County, Oregon, located at 250 N Baxter Street, Coquille, Oregon 97423.

Coos County is requesting \$231,000 to support their emergency radio communications system. Beginning several years ago, the County's 911 system started failing on a regular basis, leaving fire, medical, and police responders without radio communications. There have been instances where officers have been confronted with weapons and were unable to call for backup, and instances where pagers did not alert fire responders to an active call. In October of 2019, the entire system was inoperable for a period of about 36 hours.

The County was unable to make repairs due to the manufacturer no longer supporting the system, as well as the scarcity and expensive nature of required parts, so it has determined that replacement is the only option. Funding options for the system replacement were exhaustively researched, and while the County moved forward with a local option tax, certain costs were not covered by the Statement Of Work for the levy, or became apparent after analysis and study.

Accordingly, the County is requesting funding for the following: \$84,000 for power options (batteries) for several sites; \$91,000 for construction and installation of a new communications tower; \$36,000 for wireless communications infrastructure for Coos Bay and North Bend; and \$20,000 for fiber-optic cable.

Coos County's 911 radio system supports dispatching and tracking of all local first responders in the area, including 7 police agencies, 16 fire agencies, the Coos Forest Protective Association, the county roads department, and 2 rural ambulance companies across four dispatch centers. A failing communications system puts citizens in danger of not receiving fire, police, or emergency medical services, and responding personnel would be placed in harm's way without being able to call for support. This project will prevent future failures of the system.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter A. DeFazio". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress  
4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Oregon