



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC SERVICES BUILDING

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

March XX, 2022

Lynn Peterson, President
Metro
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Dear President Peterson:

We are writing in support of the Condor Conservation Improvement Project, the Oregon Zoo's appropriations request which will support one of the country's strongest endangered species success stories.

It's a little known secret that one of the country's most renowned condor breeding facilities is located right in Clackamas County. The Oregon Zoo condor breeding facility houses over thirty condors (more than 5% of the world's total condor population), and in the twenty years that it has been in Clackamas County has produced more than 150 eggs, two thirds of which have hatched. More than 30% of the condors that have been released back into the wild as part of the Endangered Species Act program have been raised in Clackamas County.

As you well know, Clackamas County has experienced multiple disasters over the past two years including wildfires, ice and wind storms, flooding, and heat domes. Because of our diverse geography, topography, and urban-rural landscape, we have suffered from more extreme weather-related impacts than other parts of the state. As climate change progresses, we are working diligently to prepare Clackamas County to withstand more frequent and severe future events.

In order to ensure that the condor breeding operations continue in Clackamas County, we support the Oregon Zoo's request for federal funding to help the facility weather the next set of weather events. These investments will support Clackamas County's disaster preparedness efforts and help ensure that these magnificent birds can once again soar above their historic habitat.

Sincerely,

Tootie Smith, Chair
On behalf of the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners