

Bonamici Bulletin



**By Congresswoman
Suzanne Bonamici**

The President talked about bipartisanship and unity during the State of the Union Address, but he failed to present meaningful proposals to move our country in a positive direction. For months, Congress has not been able to agree on a long-term federal budget. This undermines the stability of the government – especially the military – and American businesses. Republicans have had control of the House, the Senate, and the White House for more than a year now, but their leadership has been marked by uncertainty and crisis after crisis. We must resolve one of the many issues that Congressional leadership has neglected: protecting Dreamers from deportation. I'm also deeply concerned about Republicans on the House Intelligence Committee going against the recommendations of top law enforcement to release the partisan Nunes Memo. Congress must do better. I am ready to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass good policies that will grow the economy and restore stability.

Tackling the Opioid Crisis

The opioid crisis is tearing families apart across Oregon and the country. To learn more about the crisis and how we can best address it, I convened discussions in Multnomah, Washington, Columbia, Clatsop, and Yamhill counties. Health care providers, law en-

forcement, treatment providers, people in recovery, and families affected by addiction have shared their stories, ideas, and experiences. Many of the stories I've heard are heart-wrenching, and I appreciate the courage it takes for people to speak out. We must recognize that addiction is a disease, not a moral failing. After hearing many perspectives, it's clear that there is no single solution. We must work together at the local, state, and federal levels to enact needed policy changes and to provide necessary resources to address this crisis.

Newberg-Dundee Bypass

Smart investments in infrastructure and transportation improve our lives and our communities. After years of hard work, planning, and coordination, Phase One of the Newberg-Dundee Bypass opened. This bypass will ease traffic congestion and make it safer for Yamhill County businesses to move goods to market. Additionally, it's built to withstand a 9.0 earthquake. In Congress, I worked to designate the Newberg-Dundee Bypass as a high priority corridor eligible for additional funding and support. Members of Congress must work together to invest in infrastructure in Oregon and across the country, including roads, bridges, public buildings, electric grids, and broadband internet.

Protecting Consumers from Predatory Payday Lenders

Under President Obama, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau took strong action against unscrupulous

payday lenders and stopped the worst abuses in the industry. Without strong protections, people facing financial crisis often turn to payday lenders and become trapped in a cycle of debt that is nearly impossible to escape. I am disappointed – but not surprised – that the Trump Administration plans to remove or relax these important consumer protections. In the coming weeks, I will be reintroducing my Stopping Abuse and Fraud in Electronic (SAFE) Lending Act to protect consumers from some of the worst predatory payday lending practices.

The Will of the Voters

I am deeply disappointed that the U.S. Department of Justice rescinded the Cole Memo, which discouraged prosecutors from charging individuals and businesses with federal marijuana-related crimes in states like Oregon where marijuana is legal, taxed, and regulated. More than 700 licensed small businesses in Oregon are threatened because of this misguided move by the Trump Administration. Voters in Oregon have spoken, and their will must be respected. Attorney General Jeff Sessions should reverse this attack on states' rights.

You can find more updates about my work around NW Oregon and in Washington, D.C. on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. You can also contact my Oregon and Washington, D.C. offices with questions, comments, or for assistance with a federal agency.



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Affordable Homeownership Opportunity with Habitat for Humanity

In February, Columbia County Habitat for Humanity (CCHFH) will open the application process to a new group of hopeful homeowners. The application process will kick off with two informational meetings on Tuesday, February 20 at 6:30 pm and Saturday, February 24 at 10:00 am both at Warren Community Fellowship.

"Attending one of these meetings is a required part of the application because we want people to be fully aware of the process," says Jennifer Anderson Executive Director, CCHFH.

The new Habitat for Humanity house will be built on North 7th Street in St. Helens. Any low income family who has lived in Columbia County for at least one year is eligible to apply. "The process is designed to give people a hand up to make a better life for themselves. Housing is such a basic need it can affect health, education, and other aspects of a person's life," says Anderson.

Debbie Ritthaler, the first Habitat Homeowner in Columbia County, volunteers to extend this opportunity to other families. "When Habitat was working on my house, it was amazing to me to see all the total strangers come together to build a home for my family. Out of kindness of their hearts my children and I were able to have a place to call home."

Founded in 1999, Columbia County Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit Christian housing ministry that depends on donations from the community and volunteer labor to build homes for families in need. CCHFH is an equal housing opportunity lender that offers affordable mortgages to families that meet three requirements: need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner. For more information, call the affiliate office at (503) 366-1400 ext. 2 which is located in the ReStore on Hwy 30 in St. Helens. The information meetings will both take place off site at Warren Community Church, 56523 Columbia River Hwy, Warren, Oregon.

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