

**WASHINGTON, DC-** Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today secured final funding approval for two programs in Benton County. The City of Corvallis will receive \$600,000 to replace two buses that are functionally obsolete. Oregon State University will receive \$600,000 for research aimed at improving the health of salmon in the Klamath River salmon.

“With rising gas prices and increasing road congestion, we are literally loving our public transportation systems to death. Sadly, transit is generally badly underfunded, making investments of this kind vital to meeting the public demand. I am pleased people will be able to continue to utilize this valuable public asset,” DeFazio said.

The money will go toward buying two new handicapped accessible biodiesel buses in order to retire buses which have outlasted their life expectancy. Replacing these old buses will increase service reliability and reduce the cost of maintenance of the bus fleet. This means funds can instead be used to provide expanded transit services.

“The disease reduction project for Klamath River salmon is critical to restoring a healthy salmon population on the South Coast. Our fishing communities are suffering under recent closures,” DeFazio continued. “Without projects like this one, the closures of the salmon season will

continue, Oregon, fishing communities will continue to suffer, and we will lose an important asset to the state economy.”

The fishing industry is vital to the coastal Oregon economy. The salmon season has been closed or significantly curtailed the past three years due to the continued decline in salmon returning to the Sacramento and Klamath Rivers, which typically make a significant contribution to the Oregon fishery. Approximately 3,000 licensed commercial salmon fishermen in Oregon and California depend directly on Klamath River Chinook Salmon production for income. Healthy fish runs also support the recreational fishery and the guides, motels and restaurants on the coast and in the Klamath Basin. This funding will help revitalize the Oregon fish population and put fishermen back to work.

The funding was included in The Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010. The bill must now be passed by the Senate before it heads to the White House for President Obama’s signature.