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December 11, 2025

The Honorable Mehmet Oz, M.D.  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Oz,

Thank you and your team at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for your unwavering commitment to strengthening America's health care system, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Under your leadership, CMS has demonstrated a level of engagement, responsiveness, and clarity of purpose that has been noticed and deeply appreciated in rural Oregon. The thoughtful, hands-on approach you have taken in implementing the Rural Health Transformation Program reflects a genuine understanding of the obstacles our small, rural communities face and a determination to ensure they are not left behind.

I am writing to express support for Oregon's application to the Rural Health Transformation Program. Oregon is one of the most rural states in America, and the communities I represent rely heavily on strong federal partners to help ensure that people in small towns and remote areas can access dependable, high-quality health care.

In eastern and southern Oregon, hospitals and clinics face challenges that urban areas simply do not, patients often drive hours to reach basic services, health care workers are stretched thin, and local systems lack the financial stability needed to keep doors open. The Rural Health Transformation Program offers an important opportunity to strengthen our rural health networks and help communities build a more sustainable path forward.

Oregon's proposal focuses on the essentials rural communities need most: better regional coordination, stronger preventive care efforts, support for the rural workforce, and technology upgrades that help clinics and hospitals operate more efficiently. These priorities directly reflect the program's purpose and the challenges we hear from providers across rural Oregon.

If awarded, the state plans to begin by pairing region-specific health needs with targeted resources during the first two years. Oregon has committed to using these funds responsibly by directing them to the rural and frontier communities most at risk. This includes rural hospitals, clinics, community health centers, and community-based organizations that form the backbone of care in sparsely populated areas. Applicants will be required to clearly demonstrate that their projects support rural communities and align with the program's goals, an important safeguard to ensure this funding is used as intended.

I also want to recognize President Trump's Administration and CMS for bringing real accountability and urgency back to rural health care. Your leadership has given rural communities confidence that Washington is finally paying attention and acting. I appreciate the Administration's focus on results, partnership, and making sure rural America is no longer an afterthought.

I respectfully encourage CMS to give Oregon's application strong consideration. Approval would bring critical resources to rural families who too often struggle to access timely and affordable care.

Sincerely,



Cliff Bentz

Member of Congress