

# State Department and Foreign Operations

The following appropriation requests were received by the offices of Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden. These requests have not been vetted or approved by the Senate offices, and their inclusion in this list does not indicate any judgment about the projects' value, appropriateness, or likelihood of receiving funding. Every funding request has been included, and project summaries have been drawn verbatim from applicants' proposals. Not all of the requests received by both Senators will be submitted for funding consideration to the Senate Appropriations Committee, and that Committee will then select a limited number of projects to fund from each state.

The following appropriations for Oregon are being considered for inclusion in the State Department and Foreign Operations appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010.

## **Mobility International USA Clearinghouse-\$496,000**

### **Mobility International USA, Eugene, OR**

The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse educates people with disabilities and disability-related organizations about international opportunities; works to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the full range of international exchange programs; provides international exchange organizations and colleges and universities with practical, how-to consultation, assisting them to be proactive in their inclusion of people with disabilities in their programs; and facilitates partnerships between people with disabilities, disability-related organizations and international exchange organizations. The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse also has a foreign language initiative to promote participation of people with disabilities in foreign language international exchange programs. This project will provide jobs to approximately twelve people, of whom more than 50% are people with disabilities. In addition, the project provides employment training for university interns and students. The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse potentially provides information to the 60 million people with disabilities in the U.S. so that they may have the opportunity to participate in international exchange, which can result in a higher change of employment, especially as the world economy seeks more employees with cross-cultural and foreign language capabilities.