

Trump approves dispatching federal troops to Portland

Oregonian

President Donald Trump on Saturday authorized sending federal troops to protect “War ravaged Portland.”

It was the latest in a string of comments from the president about threatening federal intervention and inaccurately characterizing what is happening in the city.

“At the request of Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, I am directing Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth, to provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland, and any of our ICE Facilities under siege from attack by Antifa, and other domestic terrorists. I am also authorizing Full Force, if necessary. Thank you for your attention to this matter!” Trump wrote in a post on Truth Social.

It’s not immediately clear if or when troops would arrive in Portland or which branch of the military might be involved.

“We haven’t had an official request at this time,” said Lt. Col. Stephen Bomar, a spokesperson for the Oregon National Guard. “Any request that would come would be coordinated through the governor’s office.”

The president appears to be referring to the ongoing protests outside the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in South Portland. Those protests peaked in June, with flare-ups off-and-on since then, but have involved no more than several dozen people in recent weeks.

Portland mayor Keith Wilson and other Oregon leaders gathered Friday to sound the alarm about the apparent increased federal presence at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility south of downtown Portland.

What Oregon's political leaders are saying

Oregon political leaders dashed off statements Saturday responding to Trump's authorization of federal troops.

Oregon's lone Republican U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz has not responded to requests for comment.

Here are responses from Oregon's political leaders as of Saturday morning:

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson

"President Trump has directed 'all necessary Troops' to Portland, Oregon," Wilson said in a statement. "The number of necessary troops is zero, in Portland and any other American city.

"Our nation has a long memory for acts of oppression, and the president will not find lawlessness or violence here unless he plans to perpetrate it," Wilson continued.

"Imagine if the federal government sent hundreds of engineers, or teachers, or outreach workers to Portland, instead of a short, expensive, and fruitless show of force."

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon

"Trump is launching an authoritarian takeover of Portland in the hopes of provoking conflict in my hometown," Wyden said.

"I urge Oregonians to reject Trump's attempt to incite violence in what we know is a vibrant and peaceful city. I will do everything in my power to protect the people in our state."

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Oregon

In a video, Merkley said, “Trump is sending troops to Portland with a goal of ‘doing a number on the city.’ And we know what this means. He wants to stoke fear and chaos and trigger violent interactions and rights to justify expanded authoritarian control. Let’s not take the bait. Portland is peaceful and strong, and we will take care of each other.”

U.S. Rep. Maxine Dexter, D-Oregon

Trump’s decision to send troops to Portland “is an egregious abuse of power and a betrayal of our most basic American values,” Dexter said in a statement.

“We did not ask for federal agents, and we do not want them. Let me be clear: the Portland we love will not be divided by federal forces,” added Dexter, who represents much of Portland. “Do not take the bait. Stay safe, stay peaceful, and stay together.”