

Stephanie Libby

Po Box 484

Corbett, OR 97019

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To Whom It May Concern,

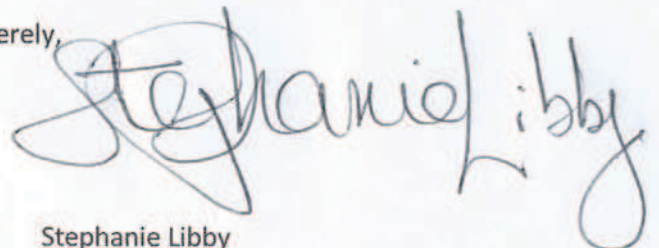
I wanted to let you know I'm a supporter of House Bill 2516. I have two boys whom were able to spend a full week at Outdoor School and both would say it was a highlight for the year. For the last couple of years, I have been fundraising for my school to help the kids go a full week and it has paid off because the kids have been able to and I've heard many people be so very supportive.

My oldest son, John liked going to Outdoor School because it was hands on learning. When he came home he was excited with things he learned, friends he made, good food he ate, songs he sang, and somewhere towards the end of his story was something about it rained the whole time. The rain didn't put a damper on his week at all. He was very helpful to his brother, Michael when he was to go to Outdoor School.

I was nervous for Michael to go to Outdoor School even though I am a supporter. He has been on an IEP since before kindergarten due to low muscle tone and delayed speech. He needs extra time and support to do physical activities and is reserved with his words. Outdoor School made sure his accommodations would be met, but it wasn't until he got home that I understood how important it was for him to go. Michael loved the water studies and he is a non-swimmer. He made new friends that sometimes will take months for him to do. The hands on learning were so motivating that he still shares things with us. The one activity he picked to do was take a hike! He hates hikes so he gained pride and learned to ask for help. He came home with some things that can't be taught in a classroom.

Outdoor school was something I never got a chance to do growing up in Missouri. Now living in Oregon, I learned about Outdoor school when John was able to go, then became a supporter. I had to put my words into action when budget cuts hit our school. During this volunteering, I would be greeted with fond memories of years in past or the excitement of when they would be going. I can say I have yet to meet someone who didn't have a good time. What makes me more of a believer in the program is to hear how it has shaped some peoples career paths. I'm thrilled that high school kids get to go and be student leaders. I see and hear how the education of our kids has been impacted by Outdoor School. That is why I'm a supporter of House Bill 2516.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Libby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" and "L".

Stephanie Libby