



Oregon City Public Schools

Learning to be our Best

P.O. Box 2110 (1417 12th St.), Oregon City, Oregon 97045-5010

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February 19, 2013

Senator Chris Edwards and Representative Ben Unger
Co-Chairs of Ways and Means subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: Support for Oregon Department of Energy

Dear Senator Edwards and Representative Unger:

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) has played a key role in the efforts of the Oregon City School District to implement energy conservation measures that reduce both energy use and cost.

Our most recent experience involved a complete upgrade of the HVAC system at Beaver Creek Elementary School which was funded using the SELP Loan program and a Cool Schools Grant administered by ODOE. Staff members reviewed the results of the Energy Audit and the scope of the project. As a result, Beaver Creek Elementary has a new boiler, supporting HVAC components and a digital control system that are collectively projected to reduce energy use and save the District more than \$9,000 per year. Moreover, several of the measures identified in the Cool Schools audit were reimbursable through the District's involvement in the SB 1149 Schools Program.

Members of the staff worked late nights and weekends assisting the district in completing the SELP loan documents and updating the SB 1149 Implementation Plan. Because of their work, the district is also undertaking an energy conservation project at Jennings Lodge Elementary School, and is in the planning process for a major energy saving project at Ogden Middle School.

In prior years, ODOE has served as an objective consultant to the district regarding outdoor lighting, gym lights, direct digital control systems, retro-commissioning and other energy savings measures. In addition, their certification of Energy Auditors and review of the actual audits has significantly improved audit content and reliability of the recommendations. They also provide information regarding firms offering Energy Conservation services and energy conservation materials and/or equipment.

The district has benefited from ODOE sponsored workshops and webinars on a variety of subjects involving the sharing of best practices by both educational institutions and private companies. The Schools Interactive Database (SID) is a constant source of information on the results of energy conservation efforts.

In a state committed to energy conservation and alternative sources of energy, it is hard to imagine not having a state agency that is just a phone call away when a school district has a question about an

With high expectations for all, we engage all students in meaningful learning activities that prepare them for a successful life.

energy conservation project or potential energy conservation opportunity. Being able to get a quick answer either by phone or email is, from my perspective, justification for the continued existing and funding of ODOE.

Finally, if I were to identify any negatives regarding ODOE, it would be the size of the staff available to work with school districts and the need for greater staff stability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Thonstad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "T" and "H".

Ted Thonstad, Director of Operations

CC: Larry Didway, Superintendent of Schools