

# SPRINGWATER



ENVIRONMENTAL  
S C I E N C E S  
S C H O O L

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Written Copy of Testimony in Support of SB 819/820 given 4/7/2015

Chair Roblan, members of the committee, I am Dawn Bolotow and I am a parent of two students at Springwater Environmental Sciences School in Oregon City. And I have the additional honor to also be the school's Principal. I'm here to share my unwavering support for Senate Bills 819 and 820. I am also representing over 200 students and 135 families who currently attend Springwater.

I have helped develop the school from its earliest years, we are now in our 9<sup>th</sup> year in the Oregon City School District. We provide an excellent education that feeds children's curiosity of the natural world around them. We have been distinguished as a level 5 School for two years in row. Last year, 100% of our students met or exceeded on the state Science assessment. Our graduates have continued on to be active members at many Oregon City High Schools.

We have a wide community of supporters and partnerships including the Oregon City School District, the Oregon City School Board and Superintendent's office. One of our strengths/successes has been to have a close and supportive relationship with our sponsoring district. This is a priority for us.

We are a small school and every dollar counts. For all our children we seek equity, we are not asking for more, we are asking for an amount closer to that of all other students in district public schools.

Childhood is perishable, funding for Charter Schools should not. Every child in the state of Oregon counts equally. Every funding dollar makes a significant difference. This is especially true for our small school.

We budget year to year under the current funding formula and a required to seek fundraising support of about \$100,000 per year to maintain our high quality program. The proposed funding formula would bring equity, sustainable financial security and allow us to engage in long range planning.

I ask on behalf of our community and future decades of students to be educated at Springwater Environmental Sciences School in the Oregon City School District for your support for SB 819 and 820. These bills will make Springwater and every other charter school in Oregon a sustainable and continued option for all students in the State.

I thank you for your time to consider my written testimony.

*Science meets every child's need to understand the world through active investigation.*