



Chair Burdick, members of the Committee.

I am Rick Bastasch, President of the Straub Environmental Center. With me is Catherine Alexander, Executive Director of the Straub Environmental Center.

The Straub Environmental Center Board wholeheartedly supports the Pat Straub Memoriam, Senate Concurrent Resolution 16.

The Straub Environmental Center is a Salem-based nonprofit organization that offers environmental education programs, hands-on classes, field trips, and presentations for kids and adults. Our goal is to get kids and families outdoors—exploring, discovering, and learning about nature. We draw our inspiration from Governor Bob Straub and Pat, who were known for their love of Oregon and their efforts to preserve its natural beauty. We promote this spirit by fostering public awareness of the natural resources and cultural history of the Willamette Valley.

When our organization began in 2004, our founding members visited with Pat Straub who was kind enough to allow use of the family name for our organization. And we've always been proud to serve our community under the Straub family name and with the same dedication to service that Governor Straub exemplified.