



July 21, 2020

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St NE, S-405
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St NE, H-477
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Frederick and Ms. McLain,

We are writing in support of two statewide programs in the higher education budget – **Oregon Solutions**, which is a standalone program; and **Oregon Consensus**, which is funded through Dispute Resolution. These statewide programs have a longstanding track record of successfully using collaborative approaches to help our state and local communities find sustainable and effective solutions to complex public issues. We also note that cuts to these programs will have a direct impact on our team’s ability to serve Oregon’s communities.

Oregon Solutions

Oregon Solutions is the state’s designated program that brings together collaborative teams of public, private, and civic interests to align effort and resources in support of vital community needs. Since 2001, it has been a trusted and vital resource as a first stop in helping assess a problem and recommending a path forward toward a constructive outcome. We work on projects all across Oregon. They are often highly complex, and involve multiple parties who have some level of ownership or stake in these projects. Projects also run the gamete of public issues:

- We are currently working on the Oregon Coast Trail project which is a multisector stakeholder effort to develop a coast-long hiking trail that promises to boost local economies and add recreational amenities. This project has already received a federal grant of over \$200,000 to advance the planning effort;
- We’ve recently completed a project to improve and federally reaccredit outdated levees along the Columbia River that protect communities and critical businesses;
- We worked on a project to implement career and technical education programs in support of youth in both Douglas and Malheur Counties;
- We facilitated partnerships agreements in Lake County to establish a biomass plant that preserved the last remaining timber mill and reversed the downward spiral of a rural city;
- We’ve piloted the Urban Rural Ambassador Institute that brings together students from Eastern Oregon University and Portland State University to foster understanding across geographic and cultural differences.

Additionally, our projects often attract significant resources that benefit local communities. For example, the Oakridge Wood Smoke Mitigation Collaborative attracted a \$5 million federal grant to help improve air quality; the Oregon Solution project to rebuild the Vernonia School after it was destroyed by flooding leveraged over \$34 million; and, the Levee Ready Columbia project has attracted over \$12 million in funding.



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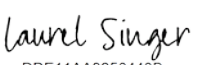
Oregon Consensus

Oregon Consensus is the state’s legislatively established program for mediation and conflict resolution services to resolve Oregon’s contentious public policy issues. For over two decades, it has served as a highly respected and credible forum where those impacted by difficult situations can work together to craft a broadly supported, durable, and effective resolution. Our team works to resolve numerous *statewide policy issues* from natural resource management (e.g., facilitating water planning, fire prevention strategies, and averting the listing of the sage grouse as an endangered species) to human services policies (e.g., ranging from the engagement youth to addressing the needs of an aging population). We also work on resolving challenging *place-based issues* like helping stakeholders build a comprehensive transportation plan for the mid-Columbia region or improving wastewater management in Clackamas County.

Oregon Consensus saves the state significant financial and human resources from litigation and other means by resolving impasses to complex public policy conflicts. For example, Oregon Consensus facilitated an overhaul of the state’s method of population forecasting that was calculated to save the state over one million dollars per biennium, and eliminated a severe bottleneck that held up critical city and county improvements. Oregon Consensus’ work in Harney County led to an agreement on a comprehensive plan to guide the management of a federal wildlife refuge that helped pave the way for other successful collaborative efforts in the region. That collaborative culture has been cited as an important resiliency factor in withstanding the occupation by self-proclaimed militants in 2016. Oregon Consensus is also currently helping resolve issues that may open a pathway forward for the Elliott State Forest and benefit Oregon schools.

In closing, as you respond to the unprecedented circumstances brought on by the pandemic, we acknowledge the very difficult and unenviable decisions you must make about how to allocate limited state resources. Even so, we urge you to consider that these two programs have consistently demonstrated an extremely high rate of return on investment to the state and to communities all across Oregon. They have earned an outstanding reputation for their proven results in helping communities build sustainable solutions and resolve complex problems together. Funding cuts to these programs will directly impact our capacity to provide services and bring benefit to communities at a time when they need it the most. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

DDE11AA9256443B...
Laurel Singer
Executive Director
National Policy Consensus Center

DocuSigned by:

80D12D47E0404B8...
Karmen Fore
Director
Oregon Solutions

DocuSigned by:

951DE8F32946474...
Peter Harkema
Director
Oregon Consensus



July 21, 2020

To: To Co-Chairs Senator Lew Fredrick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members,

Together, the **Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution (UO)** and **Oregon Consensus (PSU)** help keep Oregon moving forward. Each plays a unique role in a comprehensive spectrum of **Dispute Resolution** services that resolve Oregon's disputes at the **individual, community, regional, and statewide** level on topics ranging from neighbor disagreements to multi-state conservation policy making.

The Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution (OOCDR) **advances State investment in healthy communities** by promoting dialogue, learning, and growth towards a connected human community. OOCDR funding supports free and reduced services in Oregon communities and **does not support any University of Oregon programming**.

Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) help **create safer communities**, contribute to **school success**, increase **housing security**, and improve **access to justice**. CDRCs provide Oregonians and businesses with mediation, restorative justice, and facilitation services in partnership with the Department of Human Services, Oregon Housing, Oregon Circuit Courts, Justice Courts, Oregon Youth Authority, and Department of Education. CDRCs provide **reduced and no cost dispute resolution services and educational trainings** for community members across Oregon.

Community Dispute Resolution Centers:

- Build **community connections and help people develop lifelong skills**
- Reduce **negative or violent responses to conflict** in families and communities
- Facilitate business dissolutions and separation of assets
- Increase **access to justice** through reduced and free services consistent with Justice 2020 – A Vision for Oregon's Courts
- Mobilize and train **volunteer mediators**, who contribute more than **15,000 hours of pro bono service valued at more than \$700,000 each biennium**
- Leverage state investment to receive additional **\$7M in contracts and contributions**
- In the 2017-19 biennium, CDRCs:
 - Mediated 12,384 cases that **resolved cases for at least 55,473 Oregonians**
 - **Trained more than 22,713 Oregonians** in conflict resolution skills to reduce destructive behaviors in families, schools, and our communities

Anticipated impacts of reduction of State funding:

- **Increased conflict** amidst the current social climate through a reduction of community education programs which teach personal conflict resolution skills
- Escalated homelessness through reduced success of SB 586 (2019 Session) Mandatory Mediation at manufactured housing communities



- A **rise in housing tensions** with reduced services for landlords/tenants and foreclosure-avoidance mediation once the moratorium on no-cause evictions is lifted.
- A return to punitive measure through cancellation of Restorative Justice programs in juvenile centers and schools
 - Juvenile centers – **recidivism rates will increase**
 - School districts – graduation rates will decrease
- Additional court cases as **fewer volunteer mediators are available** to support small-claims mediation in Oregon Circuit Courts and Justice Courts
- **Intensified** negative/violent responses to **conflict in families and communities** during nationwide stress due to COVID-19 and societal examination of racism
- Layoffs of dispute resolution professionals and discontinuation of reduced and free services in some areas of the state

I urge you to support Oregon's capacity for resolving disputes at a local, community level by continuing base funding for community dispute resolution education and direct services. Attached you will find OOCDR's 2017-19 Biennial Report highlighting a few CDRC key metrics and success stories.

Thank you for your service in the legislature during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Patrick M. Sponsler, MPA



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

School of Law

The Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution

*Community Dispute Resolution Centers help create **safer communities**, contribute to **school success**, increase **housing security**, and improve **access to justice**.*



2017-2019 Biennial Report

SCHOOL SUCCESS

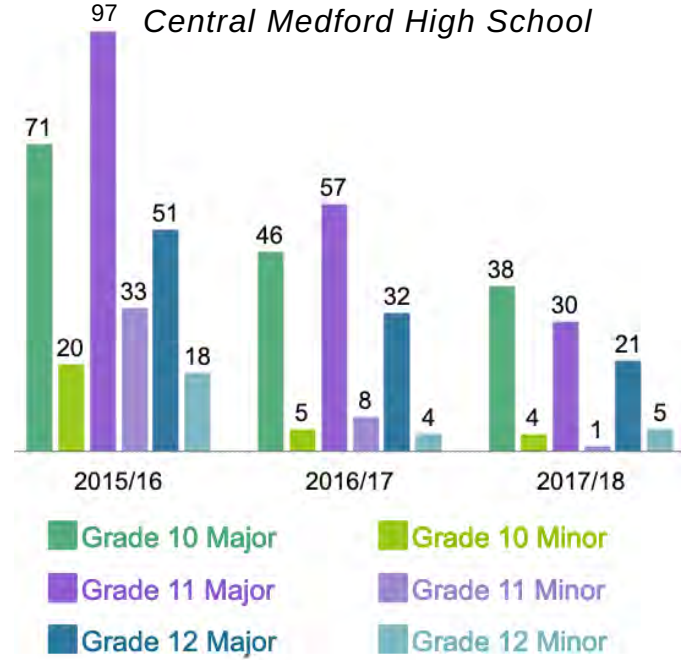
MAKING IT RIGHT WITH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice piloted an accountability class, coined "Making It Right," for North Medford High School students during the 2018/19 academic year. The class is a promising alternative to the traditional suspension model, allowing students to be both accountable and remain in their school community. "Making It Right" supports restoring relationships, helps manage suspension rates, and prevents some cases from entering the justice system altogether.



Behavior Referrals

Central Medford High School



BEHAVIOR REFERRALS WAY DOWN

Since 2015, behavior referrals have been significantly reduced at Central Medford High School. Principal Amy Herbst attributes the improvement to Central Medford High School's implementation of Restorative Justice Practices in partnership with Resolve for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

SKILLED NEIGHBORS THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Dispute Resolution Centers help community members develop lifelong skills through low or no-cost conflict resolution trainings. A recent participant at Beaverton's Center for Mediation and Dialogue remarked:

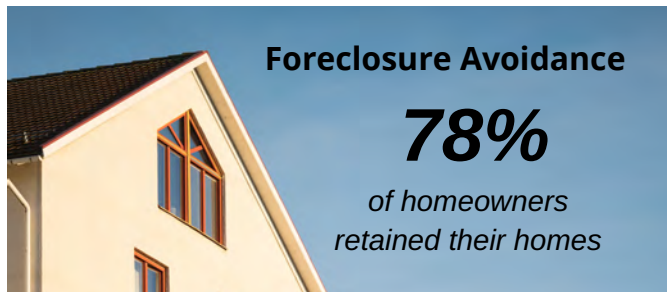
"I came to this class feeling overwhelmed and depressed and am leaving feeling I have the tools to sustain my hope. The tools are immediately helpful, and I am grateful I am on an upward bound."

80% of youth participants did not re-offend

A 10-year collaborative study by Resolve, Southern Oregon University, and Jackson County Juvenile Services comparing Restorative Justice Practices and traditional practices

REDUCED YOUTH RECIDIVISM WITH RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Restorative Justice focuses on balanced support and meaningful outcomes for youth offenders, crime victims, and the community through mediation and conversation. Youth offenders are held accountable, victims are empowered, and communities are engaged both as stakeholders and as advocates.



MEDIATORS STABILIZE CRISIS

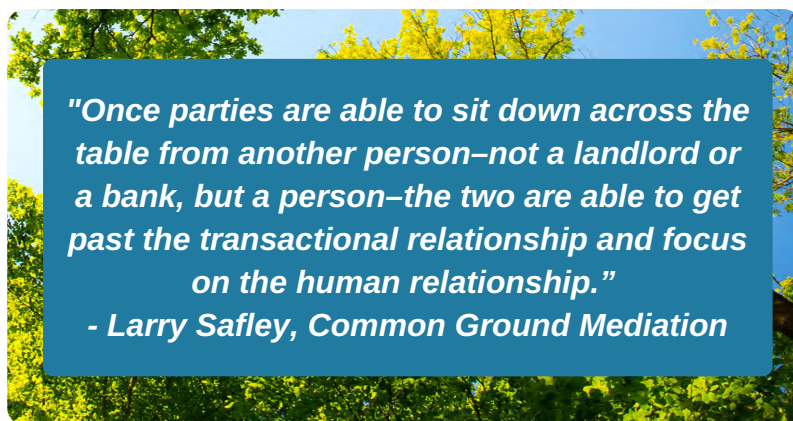
The Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program connects at-risk homeowners and lenders with facilitators to help Oregonians avoid foreclosure. A recent case:

A family with children fell behind on payments during divorce proceedings. The parent living in the home was not on the mortgage or aware of the pending foreclosure. Through the Foreclosure Avoidance Program, the parent remaining in the home had the opportunity to transfer the mortgage to their name and resume payments. The process provided time and a creative solution which stabilized housing for the family and brought the loan into good standing for the bank.

HOUSING SECURITY

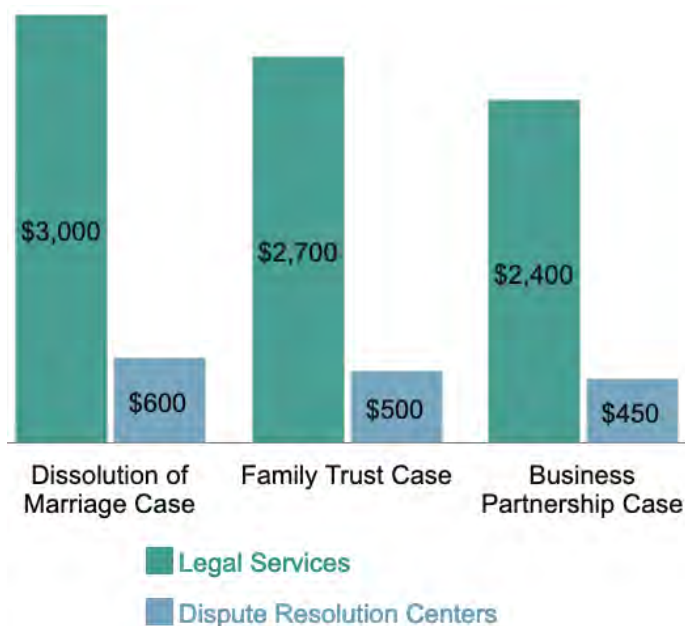
MENDING MANUFACTURED COMMUNITIES

In a decades-long collaboration with Oregon Housing and Community Services, Dispute Resolution Centers continue to foster positive individual and group dynamics in manufactured housing communities through constructive communication workshops and mediation. Over the past 10 years, 83% of disputes were resolved with an agreement.



Contrast in Costs

10 Hours of Legal & Community Dispute Resolution Services



ACCESS TO JUSTICE

ELIMINATING FINANCIAL BARRIERS

Dispute Resolution Centers enable all community members to access services that are equally effective yet lower in cost than traditional legal services. Dispute Resolution Centers offer a sliding scale fee structure that reduces or waives mediation fees based on each community member's ability to pay. In Deschutes County alone, **Community Solutions of Central Oregon saved 90+ community members a minimum of \$135,000** in associated legal fees for divorce, business, or parenting-related disputes.



The Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution advances State investment in healthy communities by promoting dialogue, learning, and growth towards a connected human community.

15
Community Dispute Resolution Centers

55,473
Community Members Served

13,963
Cases

651
Volunteers

27,101
Volunteer Hours

535
Community Education Programs

505
Youth Education Programs

20,119
Education Program Participants

Oregon Community Dispute Resolution Centers

METRO, NORTH COAST, & MID-VALLEY

Center for Mediation & Dialogue

Washington County
503-526-2523 | beavertonoregon.gov/cmd

Community Mediation Services

Polk County
503-623-3111 | vorpcms.org

East Metro Mediation

Multnomah County
503-618-3247 | greshamoregon.gov/East-Metro-Mediation

Hillsboro Mediation Program

Washington County
503-615-6651 | hillsboro-oregon.gov/mediation

Resolutions Northwest

Multnomah County
503-595-4890 ext 101 | resolutionsnorthwest.org

Resolution Services

Clackamas County
503-655-8700 | clackamas.us/ccrs

Your Community Mediation

Tillamook & Yamhill Counties
503-435-2835 | ycmediation.org

CENTRAL & NORTH CENTRAL

Community Solutions of Central Oregon

Crook, Deschutes, & Jefferson Counties
541-383-0187 | solutionsco.org

Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center

Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco, & Wheeler Counties
541-386-1283 | 6rivers.org

NORTHEAST

Eastern Oregon Mediation Center

Union County
541-786-0270 | eomediation.org

MID & SOUTH COAST

Common Ground Mediation

Coos & Douglas Counties
541-751-9666 (Coos)
541-530-2578 (Douglas)
commongroundmediation.org

Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution

Lincoln County
541-574-9846

SOUTHWEST

Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution & Restorative Justice

Jackson & Josephine Counties
541-770-2468 | resolvecenter.org

SOUTH VALLEY

Center for Dialogue & Resolution

Lane County
541-344-5366 | lanecdr.org

Neighbor to Neighbor

Benton, Linn, & Marion Counties
503-585-0651 (Marion)
541-223-4189 (Benton/Linn)
n2nmediation.org

Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution

Patrick Sponsler, Program Administrator

Sophia Mantheakis, Program Assistant

University of Oregon School of Law

1221 University of Oregon Eugene, Oregon 97403-1221

541-346-1623 | law.uoregon.edu/academics/centers/adr/oocdr

Community Dispute Resolution Centers are sanctioned under the Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 36.

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July 21, 2020

Oregon State Legislature
Education Subcommittee of Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Co-Chairs Fredrick and McLain:

We, the 15 providers of community dispute resolution services, write to request that the legislature support funding for the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution (OOCDR). OOCDR is a public service program that advances State investment in healthy communities by promoting dialogue, learning, and growth towards a connected human community.

Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRCs) help create **safer communities**, contribute to **school success**, increase **housing security**, and improve **access to justice** by providing mediation, restorative justice, conflict resolution training and facilitation processes to community members and organizations. With a **cadre of well-trained volunteer mediators who contribute more than 15,000 hours of services valued at over \$700,000** each biennium, CDRCs reduce negative or violent responses to conflict in families and help build community connections.

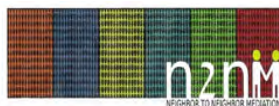
CDRCs provide mediation and facilitation processes that **increase housing stability for Oregonians** by facilitating living agreements for houseless youth and adults in the Metro HomeShare and Second Home programs, supporting mandatory mediations at manufactured communities (2019 session- SB 586), and helping Oregon families retain their homes through the Foreclosure Avoidance Program. CDRCs are well-prepared to continue their support of landlords, tenants and courts with the backlog of cases that are waiting to be managed once the moratorium on evictions has ended.

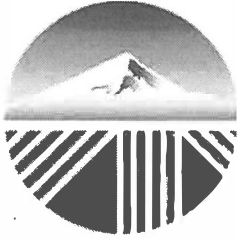
CDRCs are on the forefront in the implementation of **restorative justice** procedures, which is a **key strategy of the Oregon Department of Education** for strengthening school communities and raising graduation rates to 100% by 2025. CDRCs currently partner with many schools and school districts to provide on-site programming and/or support the school's onsite staff.

As you know, **during the 2019 session, \$349,000 of funding was mistakenly transferred** to another statewide program. If the legislature is unable to restore this funding (less the reduction shared by all statewide programs while rebalancing the budget), **Oregonians from every corner of the State will suffer from reduced services or elimination of services altogether**. Attached is the bipartisan Dear Colleagues letter submitted during the 2020 short session in support of restoring the mistaken transfer.

Thank you for your service in the legislature during these challenging times.

Sincerely,
Community Dispute Resolution Center service providers





Phoenix-Talent Schools

Excellence For Everyone

July 20, 2020

To Co-Chairs Fredrick and McLain,

I am writing in support of the strong partnership between the Phoenix-Talent schools and the Resolve Center for Dispute Resolution. As the Superintendent of Phoenix/Talent Schools, I can honestly say that the relationship has fundamentally changed the culture and practice of discipline in our secondary schools.

Resolve has provided, and will continue to provide, the education and coordination support necessary to create a system of restorative justice at Phoenix High School and Talent Middle School. In addition, Resolve has supported trainings at our elementary schools. This work takes time, and still requires the expert support of Resolve to become part of our culture. We are now on the brink of having a K-12 system of restorative practices. This project will greatly improve the systems of discipline in each of the schools by lessening the number of suspensions, and creating positive solution-based systems to help our students be successful not only in school but in life.

Resolve has earned our respect for the work they do in our community and we strongly recommend them to other districts considering Restorative Justice. If you have any questions, please contact me at 541-535-1511 or by email at brent.barry@phoenix.k12.or.us.

Sincerely,

Brent Barry
Superintendent
Phoenix-Talent Schools



PO Box 285 • Corvallis, OR 97339
PO Box 1984 • Albany, OR 97321
1-800-901-2904
www.jacksonstreet.org

Dear Co—Chairs Fredrick and McLain,

Jackson Street Youth Services is proud to write this letter in support of Neighbor to Neighbor, Inc., and to share with you the valuable partnership we have cultivated. In our experience working with Neighbor to Neighbor, we have been continuously grateful for their assistance in reconnecting the youth we serve to their families in a professionally dignified yet gentle manner. We oftentimes utilize Neighbor to Neighbor's Parent/Teenager Mediation Program, free of charge, in order to achieve this reunification between youth and their families.

One of our core outcomes is safety and stability, which encompasses the goal that youth exiting our services are entering into a safe, stable living situation. Many times this involves reunification with family—a vision brought to life through our partnership with Neighbor to Neighbor. Jackson Street youth (alongside their case managers) sit down with their family and Neighbor to Neighbor mediators for several two-hour sessions over the course of 1-2 months, with the purpose of expressing needs and feelings with clarity in order to improve situations between parties. Ultimately, a plan is developed to enable our youth and their parents/guardians to live together in a safe and stable environment.

Another one of our core outcomes is also supported through Neighbor to Neighbor interactions: providing well-being. Neighbor to Neighbor mediators facilitate a healthy environment to discuss sensitive subjects, demonstrating to our youth what a healthy interaction should look like. These mediation sessions also help to expand youths' communication and relationship skills.

We have recently signed an updated MOU with Neighbor to Neighbor to keep this thriving partnership active. The services provided by Neighbor to Neighbor play an irreplaceable role in helping us achieve our desired outcomes, and the partnership we've built is one of remarkable compatibility, producing powerfully beneficial results for families within the community.

Sincerely,

Ann P. Craig
Executive Director
Jackson Street Youth Services

Jackson Street helps youth 24/7/365
Jackson Street Youth Services is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID # 93-1269503

July 21, 2020

Senator Lew Fredrick
Representative Susan McLain
Oregon State Legislature
Education Subcommittee of Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs Senator Lew Fredrick and Representative Susan McLain:

I am an attorney with the Oregon Law Center/Lane County Legal Aid and have been for over forty years. I have focused my work on civil matters affecting low income Oregonians, especially tenant advocacy and affordable housing. I write to support the budget request for the Community Dispute Resolution Centers.

I was trained as a mediator in the early 1980s, and helped form and incorporate the Eugene CDRC. My legal aid program used mediation for many years to resolve disputes between landlords and tenants. My work over the past twenty years has included a focus on manufactured dwelling park tenancies, largely through the Manufactured Housing Landlord/Tenant Coalition.

The Coalition's 2019 bill, SB 586, calls for increased use of mediation through local CDRCs, statewide, to resolve disputes between MH park (and, for the first time, floating home marina) tenants and their landlords. This is an innovative and first-in-the-nation effort to avoid evictions and lawsuits by making the parties mediate first. Its success is dependent on the availability of the CDRCs.

I believe that mediation is an effective, efficient, and positive method to resolve disputes, without resort to often destructive litigation. I believe that the CDRCs are a good use of public funds. Please support their funding request.

John VanLandingham
Attorney at Law
Lane County Legal Aid/Oregon Law Center
Park View Terrace
101 East Broadway, #200
Eugene, OR 97401
541-485-1017 (x338) (w); 458-234-4273 (w direct); 541-285-8445 (c)
johnvl@oregonlawcenter.org

July 17, 2020

Re: Letter of Support for continued funding of Community Dispute Resolution

To: Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain and committee members:

I write in support of continued base funding of Community Dispute Resolution Centers.

I have been a manufactured home owner since 1999. I live on a modest income in Multnomah County. After experiencing some park issues, I consulted with the Manufactured Housing- Oregon State Tenants Association (MH-OSTA) to gain information and knowledge on how to handle the problems we were having. I had the opportunity to mediate a personal issue through East Metro Mediation. Living on a modest income I cannot afford the expense of arbitration or litigation. Seeing the power of mediation in action, and the importance of having the parties communicate and come to their own resolution made a profound impact on me.

This impact led me to take East Metro Mediation's Basic Mediator class, which I completed in March of 2018, and I am now a volunteer mediator through the center. Since that time, I have had the opportunity to mediate a number of community mediations. I have also attended continuing education in-services on Landlord/Tenant Mediations and Elder Mediations at the Beaverton and Hillsboro Centers. I have spoken at a number of community outreach advocacy groups to promote conflict resolution and mediation as a way to get parties to communicate with each other to resolve their issues.

I have only touched on the "magic" of mediation and the positive impact it has on the parties, i.e, the self-empowerment and sense of accomplishment the parties feel when THEY resolve their issues instead of having decisions made for them.

I ask that you continue funding community dispute resolution services and education so that all Oregonians can have the opportunity to learn better ways of positive communication.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Nancy Inglehart

Manufactured Home Owner, Gresham, OR

Executive Board member MH-OSTA (Manufactured Housing-Oregon State Tenants Association)

Mediator, East Metro Mediation (Community Dispute Resolution Center)



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



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FAX: 503-373-7806
www.oregon.gov/energy

July 22, 2020

Dr. Lisa Gaines, Director
Institute of Natural Resources
Strand Agriculture Hall 231
170 SW Waldo Place
Corvallis, OR 97331

Dear Dr. Gaines,

Please accept this letter of gratitude and support for the Institute for Natural Resources (INR), a partnership among Oregon's higher education establishments and housed at Oregon State University.

Established by the Legislature in 2001, INR's mission is to provide reliable, objective, relevant, and science-based integrated natural resource knowledge to facilitate long-term stewardship of Oregon's environment and natural resources. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) relies on reliable, objective, relevant science to fulfill our own recently updated mission:

The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.

In particular, we appreciate the recent collaboration between, ODOE, INR, and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) on a federal grant from the Department of Defense for the first Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment. This project helped us bring \$1 million in federal funding to the state. Working together, ODOE, DLCD, and INR will create a data-driven tool to facilitate renewable energy development in a way that is compatible with environment and military assets. This will highlight opportunities for renewable energy and transmission development that are ecologically, socially, and economically implementable. This information will be made available for renewable energy developers, reviewing agencies, and the general public with the goal of using shared information to identify and minimize conflicts.

INR staff bring deep expertise in data and information integration and management, developing interactive GIS mapping and reporting tools, and assessing built and natural resources. Their team will leverage the Oregon Explorer (OE) platform, which provides access to integrated data and information organized by topic, location, and data formats. This builds on experience that

INR has lent to state agencies in the past, such as the creation of Sage-grouse Development Siting Tool. The Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment will be more robust and effective because of state agencies partnering with INR.

With gratitude for your work leading an asset to the state and state agencies,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine Be". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janine Benner, Director
Oregon Department of Energy



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



550 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-378-4040
Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035
FAX: 503-373-7806
www.oregon.gov/energy

July 22, 2020

Erica Fleishman
Oregon Climate Change Research Institute
370 Strand Agricultural Hall
College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

RE: Letter of Support for the Oregon Climate Change Research Insitutue

Dr. Fleishman,

Please accept this letter of gratitude and support for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, a partnership among Oregon's higher education establishments housed at Oregon State University.

Since its creation by the Oregon State Legislature in 2007, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI) has provided invaluable services to Oregon's state government, local jurisdictions, and tribes. Through its reports, workshops, and online tools, OCCRI has increased the capacity of the state to assess and plan for the local risks of climate change. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) and the Oregon Global Warming Commission have relied on OCCRI's work and expertise to combat climate change.

OCCRI has conducted localized research, monitoring, and analysis to detect and accurately describe anticipated climate change impacts. Over its tenure, OCCRI's team of scientists have published hundreds of high-impact peer-reviewed papers, advancing the state of the science. OCCRI's biennial state-level climate assessments have provided unique state-specific information for ODOE's climate-related work, such as the 2018 inaugural Biennial Energy Report (BER) and upcoming 2020 BER.ⁱ OCCRI's assessments and tools, such as the Climate Toolbox, have served as critical assets to inform ODOE's upcoming Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Oregon's Energy Sector, which will characterize the vulnerability of key energy infrastructure and systems to climate impacts.ⁱⁱ OCCRI's climate assessment reports and 2019 climate risk workshop have also provided vital information and training for Oregon's Interagency Climate Adaptation Framework.ⁱⁱⁱ

OCCRI's climate assessment reports have also been heavily used to inform the work of the Oregon's Global Warming Commission.^{iv,v,vi,vii,viii,ix} By providing and presenting decision-relevant information on both the observed and expected changes of climate change and extreme events, OCCRI has supported the Commission's ability to provide informed recommendations to the Governor on climate action. In recent years, OCCRI scientists have presented to the Commission on 'Climate Impacts, Then and Now', and on other findings from their climate assessment reports.^{x,xi,xii}

OCCRI also plays a critical role in helping Oregon move forward in addressing climate change. In 2019 and 2020, OCCRI's scientists provided invited testimony to the Oregon State Legislature on the science of climate change to inform climate policy.^{xiii,xiv} Beyond Oregon, OCCRI has contributed to national and international assessments of climate change, including the National Climate Assessments and International Panel on Climate Change assessment reports—two leading bodies of climate science.^{xv} By incorporating information on our state's and region's observed climate trends, OCCRI has served the important role of representing Oregon's climate experience—e.g., how climate change has manifested in Oregon—while contributing to the larger scientific body of evidence at the national and international scale.

With gratitude for the work of OCCRI,



Janine Benner, Director
Oregon Department of Energy

ⁱ Cited in ODOE 2018 Biennial Energy Report (Ch. 2, p. 53; Ch. 5, p. 25) <https://energyinfo.oregon.gov/ber>

ⁱⁱ Data used to inform ODOE 2020 Biennial Energy Report <https://climatetoolbox.org/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (Dalton, M. and others). 2019. Oregon Climate Change Effects, Likelihood, and Consequences Workshop. Summary Report. Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. http://www.occri.net/media/1115/oregonclimatechangeworkshopsummaryreport_fall2019.pdf

^{iv} 2018 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 16, p.18, p.28, p. 30):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5c2e415d0ebbe8aa6284fdef/1546535266189/2018-OGWC-Biennial-Report.pdf>

^v 2018 OGWC Forest Carbon Accounting Project Report: Appendix D: Summary of Oregon Forest Ecosystem Expected Effects of Climate Change, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5c094beaaa4a99fa6ad4dcde/1544113138067/2018-OGWC-Forest-Carbon-Accounting-Report.pdf>

^{vi} 2017 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 10, p. 14, p. 50):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/59dd4984a8b2b090a38f07a1/1507674513035/2017-OGWC-Legislative-Report.pdf>

^{vii} 2011 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 6, p. 11, p. 15, p. 81):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a04ee0453450aa7b95e9035/1510272577559/2013+Legislative+Report.pdf>

viii 2009 OGWC Roadmap to 2020 (p. 52):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a0a0ec553450af07cfb364d/1510608618426/2011-Roadmap+to+2020+Report.pdf>

ix 2009 OGWC Biennial Report (p. 4, p. 21):

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a04f1fa24a694dfd620e5f0/1510273545054/2009+Legislative+Report.pdf>

x Presentation to the OGWC at the October 2018 meeting:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5bc4ff2215fcc0cf86486f90/1539637026835/2018-10-16-OGWC-Agenda.pdf>

xi Presentation to the OGWC at the October 2016 meeting:

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59c554e0f09ca40655ea6eb0/t/5a023bbb53450ae0a0154ed7/1510095804492/Oregon_GWC_Meeting20_agenda_0.pdf

xii OCCRI is listed as the number one resource on the Commission's website:

<https://www.keeporegoncool.org/resources>

xiii Invited testimony to the Oregon State Legislature. March 2020.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2020R1/Committees/HEE/2020-03-03-13-00/Agenda>

xiv Invited testimony to the Oregon State Legislature. January 2019

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2019R1/Committees/JCCR/2019-01-25-13-00/Agenda>

xv OCCRI scientists contributed to the 3rd and 4th National Climate Assessments, and the 5th Intergovernmental on Climate Change Assessment Report, among others:

https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_Ch24_Northwest_Full.pdf;

<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/report/regions/northwest>;

https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WG1AR5_Chapter04_FINAL.pdf



OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE

November 2019

Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-chair
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Haywrad, Co-chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-chair
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways and Means Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, and Rayfield,

As your colleagues who represent rural and urban districts across Oregon, we are writing to request that the Legislature take action in the 2020 session to restore \$349,000 for the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution (OOCDR). OOCDR is a State Program funded through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission and administered by the University of Oregon and Portland State University. As you know, the funding was reduced during the 2019 session.

OOCDR is a public service program that makes an important impact on the lives of low-income Oregonians. It supports a network of 16 dispute resolution centers that serve urban and rural communities across the state through centralized grant-making. These centers provide trained experts in mediation, facilitation, education, restorative justice and other programs designed to provide conflict resolution skills to individuals and groups. They also provide an opportunity for students at the UO School of Law to get hands on pro-bono experience.

In the 2017-19 biennium, these centers mediated or facilitated more than 12,000 cases affecting over 55,000 Oregonians. Over 75% of cases were resolved through the dispute resolution process.

Community dispute resolution centers are uniquely positioned to efficiently provide resources and mitigate issues facing Oregonians. For example, during the Great Recession and the foreclosure crisis, which impacted Oregon acutely, community dispute resolution centers trained mediators and facilitated conversations that allowed homeowners and their families to stay in their homes. The program continues to help low income Oregonians stay in their homes. Foreclosure, landlord-tenant disputes and other housing related challenges are just some of the many issues that OOCDR addresses in our communities.

If the Legislature is unable to restore funding, Oregonians from every corner of the state will suffer from reduced service levels from these providers.

It is our sincere belief that this was not an intended outcome, and we hope legislative leaders will join us in supporting restoring these funds during the upcoming February 2020 legislative session.

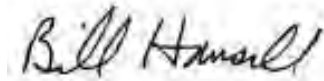
Sincerely,



Representative Pam Marsh, HD 5



Senator Arnie Roblin, SD 5



Senator Bill Hansell, SD 29



Senator Sara Gelsner, SD 8



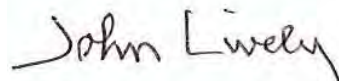
Senator Lew Frederick, SD 22



Senator Shemia Fagan, SD 24



Senator Jeff Golden, SD 3



Representative John Lively, HD 12



Representative Paul Evans, HD 20



Representative Ron Noble, HD 24



Representative Caddy McKeown, HD 9



Representative Alisa Keny-Guyer, HD 46



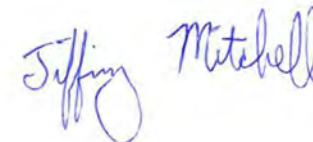
Representative Gary Leif, HD 2



Representative Jack Zika, HD 53



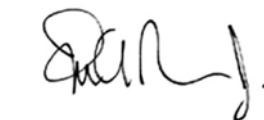
Representative Marty Wilde, HD 11



Representative Tiffiny Mitchell, HD 32



Representative Mitch Greenlick, HD 33



Representative Rob Nosse, HD 41



Representative Courtney Neron, HD 26



Representative Sheri Schouten, HD 27



Representative Ken Helm, HD 34



Representative Mark W. Meek, HD 40



DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

THOMAS N. SIMPSON, CHIEF OF POLICE

187 SE COURT STREET, DALLAS, OR 97338
503-831-3516 * 503-623-7352 (F)

WWW.DALLASOR.GOV

July 20, 2020

Senator Lew Fredrick
Representative Susan McLain
Oregon State Legislature
Education Subcommittee of Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-chairs Fredrick and McLain:

Community Mediation Services of Polk county is a valuable partner in our public safety mission, and I write to support funding for community dispute resolution centers. Community Mediation Services of Polk County has demonstrated a meaningful impact in our community for over 35 years.

Community Mediation Services works closely with the Juvenile Department to hold youth accountable for their actions and to assist those harmed by juvenile crime to be made whole. Using volunteer mediators, parties identify where restitution is needed, and these dialogues have a better than 90% chance of full payment of restitution to the victim. In the process the offender takes responsibility for his/her choices and learns about the impact it has had on the victim directly from the victim. This process is powerful for both the victim and the offender. Community Mediation Services has shown that 85% of offenders who participate do not recidivate again.

I ask that you continue base funding for community dispute resolution for Oregon communities. A reduction of funding will have direct negative impact on our community. Thank you for your service in the legislature during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Thomas N. Simpson
Chief of Police



UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Boyd Rasmussen, Sheriff

July 20, 2020

To Co-Chairs Fredrick and McLain:

I am writing this letter of support for the Eastern Oregon Mediation Center. This organization provides a vital service to the citizens of Union County. As a small, rural county we have fewer resources available for many of the crucial services needed. As a law enforcement agency we are often times understaffed with only one Deputy on duty during various times of the week, and they struggle to keep up with the calls for service.

Many of the calls deputies respond to are, in reality, civil issues and situations that are better handled outside of the criminal court system. The Mediation Center offers very necessary and crucial services for these people in order to efficiently handle disagreements. It allows a deputy to resolve a situation without arresting or criminally citing someone into the already overburdened criminal court system. With a fully operational and functional mediation service we can more effectively serve the needs of the citizens of Union County.

It is my hope as a law enforcement leader and as an EOMC Board Member, that you can assist us to the fullest extent possible. Any financial assistance offered would be put to good use by the Center to benefit Union County citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd Rasmussen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Boyd Rasmussen, Sheriff
Union County Sheriff's Office
La Grande, Oregon



American Association of University Professors

Academic Freedom for a Free Society

July 22, 2020

Co-Chairs Representative McLain and Senator Frederick
Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: AAUP-OR Calls on State and University Leaders to Enact Innovative Solutions to Pandemic and Recession Fiscal Woes

Oregon's Legislature and Governor face hard decisions as they confront our state's formidable financial challenges. The priority must be to chart the most effective path to short- and long-term economic recovery while protecting the health and well-being of all Oregonians. These goals clearly place higher education at the center of a strategy to protect and rebuild our economy through support of advanced education, research, and innovation to meet the COVID-19 challenge. For more than a century, higher education in Oregon has proven its ability to strengthen our economy, close the income gap and build tomorrow's workforce by training resilient thinkers, innovators, and workers.

We, members of the AAUP-OR (American Association of University Professors of Oregon), *ask our political leaders to support higher education at this crucial moment* and to join us in ensuring that state tax dollars for higher education are spent in the most effective way to meet the COVID-19 challenge, rebuild the economy, and protect the most vulnerable Oregonians. This will require not only additional funding, but progressive out-of-the-box thinking by higher education administrators and faculty. We stand ready to carry out this work and to hold higher education across the state accountable to these goals. Now is the time to join other states in accessing our [robust rainy day fund](#) and at the same time revisit the discussion about the Oregon tax kicker, [disconnect Oregon from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) loophole](#) for wealthy business owners, and [reform our tax codes](#) which privilege the rich and corporations.

Both our political leaders and our faculty must hold higher education administrators accountable to a socially conscious spending of higher education funds in the service of the educational mission for all Oregonians. Simple knee-jerk reactions such as raising tuition without protection for vulnerable students, academic worker job cuts, and wage cuts without a strong faculty voice are unacceptable. We demand that higher education administrators look instead at auxiliary functions - especially the incredibly costly athletics infrastructure and coaches' salaries - not central to the educational mission as targets for cost savings. Additionally, our university administrators should work with state and

campus leaders to implement a one-time levy on the university endowments by [tapping unrestricted endowment funds or by redirecting endowment earnings](#) to crucial student services or instructional budgets.

At the campus level and at the state level, academic workers, through their multilayered expertise, their unions, and their institutions of faculty governance, are ready to work with state legislators and the governor to maximize the potential of our higher education system in meeting the COVID-19 challenge through research and action while re-starting the economy for a healthier and more just Oregon. When the pandemic hit Oregon this spring, all academic workers stepped up for all of our students and for Oregon. We continue to be ready to serve.

We call on Oregon and national leaders to:

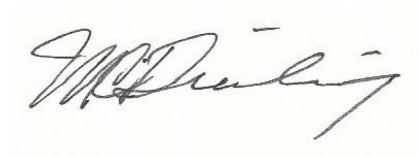
- Direct resources to higher education, including direct investment from the federal government
- Spend from the Rainy Day Fund and Education Stability Fund to support necessary public services, including higher education
- Redirect the Kicker to necessary public services, including higher education
- Disconnect from the CARES Act loophole that benefits high earners and corporations
- Revise the tax code to improve tax fairness

We call on our universities to:

- Engage faculty, staff, graduate employees, and students in all budgetary decisions
- Tap five-year earnings from the endowment fund to support crucial student services or instructional budgets
- Prioritize funding for mission-centered activities and stop fiscal hemorrhaging from costly athletics programs
- Institute a baseline percentage of gift money regularly destined to the general fund, currently at 0% on most campuses

Sincerely,

Michael Dreiling
President, AAUP-OR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Dreiling", is centered below the typed name and title. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McClain, Co-Chairs
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McClain:

I am writing in regard to the University of Oregon's Labor Education and Research Center. As you may know their funding has been drastically cut and additional cuts will impose further burdens on an already depleted program. I am calling on you to save LERC from further cuts and add back to its budget whatever funds are available.

For over forty years LERC has been educating workers in Oregon in so many ways that have improved the lives of students, workers, employers and helped create a common good for all Oregonians. At a time when many of us are facing the once in a lifetime multiple crises of a pandemic, economic and social unrest, and long term unemployment, we need more than ever the professional services that LERC offers to students/workers and employers.

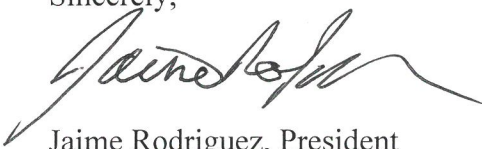
I can talk about how LERC has influenced my development as a leader starting with a 2002 Labor History class and furthered developed through the years by attending LERC Summer School. Since, and because of the training received, I've risen to a leadership role in higher education. The many skills I learned are utilized on a daily basis. I also know that through my contact with other labor leaders and activists, thousands of Oregonians have been the beneficiaries of LERC trainings.

LERC has assisted AFT-Oregon with developing two strategic plans that have helped our leaders and members see the long term advantage of vision planning which they can utilize in almost any workplace setting. With the field of education undergoing such rapid change, LERC has helped our union think critically about the goals, values, and strategies needed to help our public education system meet current and future needs.

Now LERC's importance in a post COVID-19 world looms large as we attempt to collaborate with our employers to address the changes and develop new rules, protections, and standards that improve the lives of families, students, and workers. LERC's education programs helps to give employees a voice and empowers them to address systemic inequality connected to race and gender, and provide the foundation for an economy that works for all. LERC is a valued partner with a proven track record of achievement for working Oregonians.

As an Oregonian and President of AFT-Oregon I respectfully ask for your consideration to an improved budget for LERC.

Sincerely,



Jaime Rodriguez, President
AFT-Oregon

AOC ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

July 23, 2020

Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Attn: Senator Lew Frederick
Attn: Representative Susan McLain

*Submitted via electronic mail to: Sen.LewFrederick@oregonlegislature.gov,
Rep.susanmclain@oregonlegislature.gov, jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov*

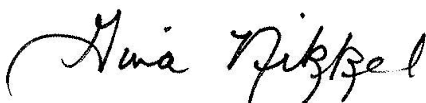
Dear Co-Chairs:

I write today to offer our support for the current funding levels for the Oregon Solutions Program. AOC has been working closely with Oregon Solutions through our County Solutions program on the Oregon Coast Trail Project. This is a complex project that involves seven counties, 28 cities, five federal agencies, three state agencies and seven tribes. We have benefited from a relationship with Oregon Solutions as it convenes the statewide stakeholders while County Solutions convenes the counties up and down the coast. Combining the convening authority of the Governor at the state level as well as the convening authority of the county commissioners with communities on the ground has created a way to work together that we believe is a strong model. The model has allowed us to bring together all of the stakeholders in a consensus process that will be necessary to ultimately make the Oregon Coast Trail a reality.

It is our hope that this project, which represents a true state/local partnership, will demonstrate the value of what can happen when we take the time to develop true partnerships between State and County governments.

I urge your support for the Oregon Solutions budget.

Sincerely,



Gina Firman Nikkel, Ph. D
Executive Director, Association of Oregon Counties
503-930-0349
gnikkel@oregoncounties.org

UNITED COUNTIES. UNITED OREGON.

1201 Court St., Suite 300 | Salem, OR 97301-4110 | 503.585.8351 | www.oregoncounties.org



Oregon Office of Rural Health

Mail code: L593
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road
Portland, Oregon 97239-3098
tel 503 494-4450 | fax 503 494-4798
toll free 866 674-4376
www.ohsu.edu/orh

July 23, 2020

Co-Chairs Senator Frederick, Rep. McLain and Members of the Committee,

The COVID-19 pandemic has required all entities receiving public funds to adapt to changes none of us would have imagined only months ago. The Oregon Office of Rural Health (ORH) will continue to work with our rural health care community to fulfill our mission to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of health care for rural Oregonians. While we are able to manage these proposed cuts, we are very concerned about future impacts on our ability to provide important services to rural Oregon.

ORH works with [facilities throughout Oregon](#), including: [Critical Access Hospitals \(CAHs\)](#); [non-CAH rural hospitals](#); over [100 certified Rural Health Clinics \(RHCs\)](#); 82 licensed rural and 23 frontier transporting EMS agencies. Among other crucial activities, our work includes: publishing the annual [Areas of Unmet Health Care Needs Report](#) and [map](#); providing geographic, demographic, socioeconomic and health state profiles for each of our 104 rural primary care service areas; providing direct technical assistance through training on certification, compliance and operations for RHCs; customized quality benchmarking, training and operational improvement for both RHCs and CAHs; administering federal dollars to CAHs through the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) to improve hospital value and quality; providing grants to rural EMS agencies to support training; provider recruitment for rural providers and practice sites; and administering provider incentive programs.

Over the last year, ORH has worked with over 200 providers interested in working in Oregon as well as students at Pacific University, COMPNW and OHSU. We worked with 62 health care organizations with multiple practice sites to recruit and retain their health care workforce and promoted more than 200 practice opportunities. Further, we provided training and critical information to 101 RHCs to help them navigate both regular operations and operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

In regular times, it is critical for our staff to travel to health care facilities throughout Oregon to provide technical assistance, training, and workforce support as these in person encounters are important to building trust and understanding the daily challenges that rural and frontier agencies face. This is a recognized best practice for ORH as well as among other states' Offices of Rural Health. The proposed cuts to ORH's budget will have a direct impact on our ability to travel to rural communities and practice sites. As travel is curtailed at all levels amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we are able to absorb cuts to our travel budget with little impact to our current operations. However, if these cuts are used as the base or



current service level for future budget consideration, we will have to cut into the critical services we provide to rural Oregon, including our work in building Oregon's rural health care workforce. Our rural health care system was impacted by a shortage and maldistribution of health care providers before the pandemic. Going forward, the impact will be greater.

I appreciate your support for our work. I am happy to go into detail on any of our programs and answer any questions.

Robert Duehmig
Interim-Director
Oregon Office of Rural Health



College of Urban and Public Affairs
Population Research Center

Post Office Box 751
Portland, Oregon 97207-0751
780 Urban Center
506 SW Mill Street

503-725-3922 tel
503-725-5199 fax
askprc@psu.edu
www.pdx.edu/prc



July 21, 2020

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain and Members of Committee,

The Population Research Center (PRC) at Portland State University is the State of Oregon's center for demographic expertise, relied upon by public agencies, the media, business, non-profits, and individuals. At PSU since 1965, the State of Oregon has depended on PRC as a reliable and unbiased source of census and other demographic data.

State support for PRC is essential for preparing annual population estimates for Oregon and its cities and counties as required under ORS 190.510 to 190.620. These estimates are used as the basis for determining per capita allocation and payment of state shared revenues to cities and counties.

Other statutes depending on PRC's population estimates include but are not limited to ORS 294.608 (establishing tax supervising and conservation commissions), ORS 320.011 (distribution of amusement device taxes), ORS 366.805 (street tax fund for small cities), and ORS 430.380 and 430.634 (mental health programs). In addition, the Oregon Department of Education relies on PRC's age group estimates.

State support also ensures that PRC retains a public service role through the Census Bureau's State Data Center (SDC) program and partnerships with state agencies, public libraries, and local governments, answering several hundred data requests each year and offering training and workshops at no cost to census data users, primarily staff of state and local agencies. This relationship leverages Census Bureau resources including subject matter experts who provide training at events in Oregon.

Thanks to support from the Census Equity Funders of Oregon (CEFCO), PRC has had a productive partnership with the Governor's office and the statewide #WeCountOregon campaign to promote a complete 2020 Census count. However, the CEFCO grant ends September 30th, and PRC will continue to be relied upon to provide accurate and unbiased information about 2020 Census operations throughout FY21.

In previous census years, PRC faculty have presented context about redistricting to legislative subcommittees and consulted legislative staff about the redistricting process. We look forward to providing this type of assistance again prior to the release of block-level redistricting data in mid-2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Rynerson".

Charles Rynerson
Interim Director
Population Research Center



Oregon Poison Center
Serving Oregon, Alaska and Guam

Mail code: CB550 ▪ 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road ▪ Portland, OR 97239-3098
ADMIN: 503 494-8600 ▪ FAX 503 494-4980 ▪ POISON INQUIRY 800 222-1222

Date: July 22, 2020

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

From: Charisse Pizarro-Osilla, MS, RN, CSPI
Director, Oregon Poison Center

Re: The Oregon Poison Center's commitment to serving on Oregonians

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-chair McLain and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Oregon Poison Center, its efforts to prevent and address accidental poisoning or toxic exposure in children and families throughout Oregon, and the importance of continued state investment. As the Oregon Poison Center director, I am appreciative of the tri-chairs' proposed budget, which maintains state support in the center.

The Poison Center is a statewide, 24-hour healthcare information and treatment resource staffed by physicians, pharmacists and nurses trained in toxicology. The center was established by an act of the Oregon Legislature in 1978 to provide emergency treatment information for patients experiencing poisoning or toxic exposure. The Oregon Poison Center is also responsible for providing public outreach and education to healthcare professionals.

The small, but mighty, team of experts at the Poison Center produce a significant impact on the State of Oregon. In 2019, the Poison Center managed more than 38,500 calls from Oregonians from the public and healthcare providers. These calls included providing medical consultation to more than 32,000 patients from every county in Oregon, and half of the calls addressed accidental poisoning or toxic exposure in children and teens. Of these patients, with ongoing treatment guidance by the staff, approximately 30% were treated in healthcare facilities. We managed about 70% of exposures "at home," without referral to other, more costly, healthcare resources through continuing patient monitoring by our nurses and pharmacists. Using survey data showing alternative healthcare resources and choices by Oregonians, successfully managing these cases over the phone prevented our citizens from driving to the hospital resulting in an estimated \$23 million in saved healthcare costs.

The Oregon Poison Center enjoys a robust and collaborative relationship with the State of Oregon and strives to deliver significant returns on the State's investment in the center. With state general fund investment, the center is able to leverage federal dollars on a two-to-one ratio.

We closely work with our public health partners at the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). We actively assist in surveillance monitoring and patient management regarding many emerging public health



Oregon Poison Center
Serving Oregon, Alaska and Guam

Mail code: CB550 ▪ 3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road ▪ Portland, OR 97239-3098
ADMIN: 503 494-8600 ▪ FAX 503 494-4980 ▪ POISON INQUIRY 800 222-1222

concerns such as opiates, cannabis and e-cigarettes. As many of you may already be aware, most recently, the Poison Center partnered with OHA in the State's response to the coronavirus pandemic by delivering the most current information to Oregon healthcare providers through a coronavirus hotline. This endeavor is undoubtedly a challenge, but our courageous and dedicated staff were eager to provide their skills to help their fellow Oregonians, and have been performing beyond expectations.

An estimated four million poisonings occur in the United States each year. The majority of these occur in children, and nearly all of these are preventable. To reduce the incidence of accidental poisoning, the Oregon Poison Center maintains a commitment to providing poison prevention information and education to our state's citizens, and always answering the call during their greatest need.

Thank you for your time and support.

Cherise Pizarro-Culla

July 9, 2020

The Honorable Lew Frederick
The Honorable Susan McClain
Co-Chairs, Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on
Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Labor Education & Research Center, University of Oregon

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick, McClain, and Members of the Oregon Joint
Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education:

As the Director of Labor for the Oregon Nurses Association, I am writing in
support of the continued State funding of the Labor Education & Research
Center at the University of Oregon.

LERC has been instrumental in enabling the ONA to develop as a professional
association for registered nurses and union for close to 15,000 workers in
Oregon. For the last several years, we have partnered with LERC to provide
leadership education to our members during our Bargaining Unit Leadership
Conferences. This education has allowed our members to improve their
workplaces through advocacy for better working conditions.

We've also relied on LERC to educate our staff, including myself. I was fortunate
to participate in the Cascade Region Labor Leader Institute, a program which
LERC helped design and helps run. In addition to me, ONA has put four other
members of its staff through this program. The value of this program to me
personally is immeasurable because it provided me specific training related to
my role as a union leader.

In addition to leadership education, we've relied on LERC to help us with
strategic planning. This included an intensive two-day course for our labor staff
on how to develop plans for their workplaces. It also included help with the
development of a lead program. Both initiatives allowed ONA to provide better
service to our members.

More importantly to me and what I think has recently become apparent to many
due to the impact of the pandemic, is the need for a program that is geared at
helping raise the voice of front-line workers through life-long study and support.
Especially in a post pandemic world, LERC is a vital asset to workers, unions,
and other stakeholders who see the well-being of workers as foundational for our

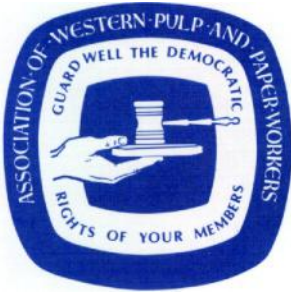
social well-being. It provides benefits (research, education, community engagement) well beyond the relatively small budget it receives as a state public program.

I ask that you recognize that LERC is a public good that warrants ongoing and robust support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan D Yoder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" being more prominent and the last name "Yoder" following in a similar style.

Alan D Yoder
Director of Labor, Oregon Nurses Association



ASSOCIATION-OF-WESTERN-PULP-AND-PAPER-WORKERS

A Union for Today... and Tomorrow

Affiliated with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America
1430 S.W. Clay • P.O. Box 4566 • Portland, OR 97208-4566 • Phone (503) 228-7486 • FAX (503) 972-7684

07/01/2020

To whom it may concern,

My name is Greg Pallesen and I am the General President of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers (AWPPW) union. I am writing to you about serious concerns our members and union leadership have with regard to the future of the University of Oregon Labor Education & Research Center (LERC). The concern is LERC's long term viability and future funding.

Over the years we, the AWPPW, have relied on LERC's expertise that our union members and leaders do not have.

That expertise includes:

- Leadership in consulting and mentorship to help us prepare our younger members to become effective leaders in the workplace and in their own communities.
- Strategic planning & facilitation for our mission, vision, and direction for the future success of AWPPW workers and non-union workers who desperately need union representation.
- AWPPW Strength Weakness Opportunities & Threat (SWOT) analysis and restructure.

15 years ago, LERC assisted us in developing our union organizing plan that included internal and external organizing. Recently LERC assisted us update the organizing plan which I still use today. I am proud to say because of LERC's leadership we have organized workers who desperately needed their voices heard in the workplace, especially a voice in their own safety and health workplace issues.

During the same time period we have relied on LERC to provide bargaining board training for all of our union full time union representatives and for all of our individual Local bargaining boards. Bargaining board training is a cornerstone of our union. We bargain labor agreements with multi-national corporations. Without LERC's strategic bargaining board training we literally do not stand a chance of earning fair wages, benefits, working conditions including much needed safety and health issues including the threat of COVID-19.

Our members, and I in particular, honestly do not know what we will do without the expertise and resources LERC provides us. LERC is much more than just a research and education department, they are a group of committed people who care about working class people and their families.

I will be blunt, if you all really do care about us the working-class peoples then you as leaders WILL find a way to ensure the long-term viability of LERC.

Respectfully,

Gregory A. Pallesen
President of AWPPW



To Whom it May Concern:

The University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) has been an invaluable source of education, inspiration and motivation to continue my work in the Labor Movement throughout my fifteen-year career with the Oregon Nurses Association. They have provided excellent training content at many continuing education courses that I've attended including the Summer Institute for Union Women, AFL-CIO Summer School and Collective Bargaining Institute – to name just a few.

I was recently able to attend the LERC Cascade Regional Labor Leader Initiative (CRLLI) as well. This extensive, year-long training has not only improved my personal leadership skills but continues to provide ongoing support. Attending CRLLI has connected me to the national Labor Movement in a way that I was never able to before. The loss of this particular program would be a significant setback to the Labor Movement as a whole. It allows for the recruitment and development of the next generation of Labor Leaders across the nation.

LERC's professional and experienced staff have also provided specialized training content for the Oregon Nurses Association on several occasions. They have developed the content and presented it to our members with expertise that our staff couldn't provide. This has allowed my organization to thrive and grow at a time when many unions are shrinking. We would not have been able to achieve this without support and guidance from LERC.

Any further diminishment of LERC's budget will have a serious, negative impact on the Oregon Labor community. I implore you to fully fund LERC in recognition of the valuable asset that the Center provides to this community, allowing working people everywhere to realize the rights provided to them through the National Labor Relations Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Niebel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Courtney Niebel
Labor Relations Representative
Oregon Nurses Association
niebel@oregonrn.org



Domestic Violence Clinic
University of Oregon School of Law
PO Box 10486, Eugene, OR 97440

July 23, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain:

My name is Samantha Takacs and I am a Fellow at the Domestic Violence Clinic at the University of Oregon School of Law. My role at the DV Clinic is to assist low-income community members in legal matters involving domestic violence, and to be an educational resource for the law school.

I am writing this letter to ask for your continued support of the Domestic Violence Clinical Legal Education Account, a part of the Higher Educational Coordinating Committee Budget. During my final year of law school in Spring 2018, I participated in the DV Clinic as a law student. The instructors explained the dynamics of a domestic violence relationship and what it means to be a compassionate and effective attorney for survivors. I was a court-certified 3L law student, and through the DV Clinic I gained the incredible experience of representing a petitioner in a contested restraining order hearing. While it was only one day in court, it was the highlight of my law school experience. This is what inspired me to be an advocate and attorney for survivors of domestic violence after graduation.

The DV Clinic is unique in that it provides vital assistance to those individuals who fear for their safety while also providing experiential learning opportunities for law students. The DV Clinic serves those members of our community who are seeking a way out of a coercive and often life-threatening situation. They often cannot afford an attorney due to the controlling nature of their abuser, and an attorney can be essential to accessing safety and autonomy. In addition to assisting survivors, the DV Clinic also imparts this knowledge to the next generation of lawyers through the classes at the DV Clinic. Once classes resume on campus, I hope to have a hands-on role with instruction so I can continue the progression of education and advocacy.

The importance of the DV Clinic's work cannot be overstated. The DV Clinic is responsible for helping countless community members achieve safety as well as shaping many students into effective survivor advocates. Domestic violence is not going away and has increased amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The services at the DV Clinic are more indispensable than ever and it requires HECC funding to continue this important work. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you continue to fund the Domestic Violence Legal Education Account.

Sincerely,

Samantha M. Takacs
University of Oregon School of Law Domestic Violence Clinic Fellow

AOC ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES

July 23, 2020

Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Attn: Senator Lew Frederick
Attn: Representative Susan McLain

*Submitted via electronic mail to: Sen.LewFrederick@oregonlegislature.gov,
Rep.susanmclain@oregonlegislature.gov, jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov*

Dear Co-Chairs:

I write today to offer our support for the current funding levels for the Oregon Solutions Program. AOC has been working closely with Oregon Solutions through our County Solutions program on the Oregon Coast Trail Project. This is a complex project that involves seven counties, 28 cities, five federal agencies, three state agencies and seven tribes. We have benefited from a relationship with Oregon Solutions as it convenes the statewide stakeholders while County Solutions convenes the counties up and down the coast. Combining the convening authority of the Governor at the state level as well as the convening authority of the county commissioners with communities on the ground has created a way to work together that we believe is a strong model. The model has allowed us to bring together all of the stakeholders in a consensus process that will be necessary to ultimately make the Oregon Coast Trail a reality.

It is our hope that this project, which represents a true state/local partnership, will demonstrate the value of what can happen when we take the time to develop true partnerships between State and County governments.

I urge your support for the Oregon Solutions budget.

Sincerely,

Gina Firman Nikkel, Ph. D
Executive Director, Association of Oregon Counties
503-930-0349
gnikkel@oregoncounties.org

UNITED COUNTIES. UNITED OREGON.

1201 Court St., Suite 300 | Salem, OR 97301-4110 | 503.585.8351 | www.oregoncounties.org



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

July 21, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McClain, Co-Chairs
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McClain:

On behalf of the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council, I am writing to express our organization's strong support for the Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) at the University of Oregon.

As a long-time leader of Portland Fire Fighters Association Local 43, I have gotten to know LERC quite well. On multiple occasions over the past fifteen years, members of LERC's faculty have facilitated an intensive strategic planning process for our organization. This process has enabled us to assess the challenges we face as an organization, set goals that address these challenges, and use specific tools to monitor and evaluate our progress. This planning process has been invaluable in helping Portland fire fighters protect our hard-won standards and protections, cultivate new collaborations and relationships within the communities we serve, and adapt to the demands of a rapidly changing world.

LERC has helped trained generations of labor leaders in Oregon and is now concentrating its efforts on preparing a new generation of leadership. Besides its excellent educational work, LERC has also increased its research capacity to address major issues related to work and employment. It has produced important studies in recent years on low-wage workers, the care economy, immigration, the effect of unions on worker well-being and Oregon's economy, and the impact of the state's recently enacted scheduling law. LERC is especially well-positioned to conduct research and training that will address the systemic deficiencies and injustices exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also prepared to work with a diverse set of stakeholders to reimagine the types of supports workers will need to succeed in a post-pandemic world.

However, LERC can only pursue its ambitious agenda of serving working Oregonians if it has sufficient resources. The Fire Fighters joined other organizations in seeking legislative support for LERC last year after the



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

University of Oregon dramatically reduced LERC's budget. Now the Ways and Means co-chairs' re-balanced budget proposes to reduce allocations for LERC and other public programs by five percent for the current biennium.

Although the proposed cut to LERC is relatively small, it comes on the heels of other reductions that we fear will diminish its ability to fulfill its mission. At a time when we have come to appreciate all work as "essential," we also need to appreciate and support LERC's role as an essential institution. No other higher education program in Oregon provides workers, unions, and related organizations with the kinds of services offered by LERC. The Oregon State Fire Fighters Council proudly adds its voice to many others who view LERC as indispensable and urge you recommend reconsideration of the proposed reduction in the re-balanced budget.

Sincerely,

Alan Ferschweiler
Legislative Director
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council



OREGON STATE FIRE FIGHTERS COUNCIL

International Association of Fire Fighters
AFL-CIO CLC

July 1, 2020

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education:

I am writing you today to implore you to provide the Labor Education & Research Center, at the University of Oregon, with the funds necessary to save this invaluable program.

I have been a union activist and leader with SEIU 503 for over 12 years. I was very fortunate to have been selected by my union to attend the LERC summer school in 2008. The experience helped shape my entire Union involvement. I had always been a believer in the necessity of unions, but my LERC education helped me understand what Unionism is really about. I learned about the history of Unions in America, and how to organize other workers. Knowing the history of the movement gave me the perspective and sense of its value that launched me on a path of activism. This engagement with the Homecare workers' union would lead me to become the president of that union, a position that I have held for over 8 years. During this time, I have also served as a statewide officer in SEIU local 503 for 6 of the last 8 years.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to lead thousands of fellow care providers to fight to protect, and build our program. I owe my deep and meaningful involvement in unionism to the eye opening and horizon expanding education that I have received from LERC. Every year the Homecare sublocal sends as many of our members as they have space for because we know that the education they receive is unparalleled by any other we can give them. The three day educational affair is also the best place I know of for all of the unions in Oregon to come together and build the bonds and networks that bring the Labor movement in Oregon to life.

LERC is one of the working class' biggest assets. I am not overstating the value of this program. The instructors are passionate and expert. I know that when I send a new activist to LERC summer school they will come back with a deeper knowledge of and love for all unions. I know that the budget crisis is real and significant, but the future of the labor movement in our state depends greatly on the continued quality education provided for us by LERC. Our state's future depends on a robust and accomplished work force, and LERC is a dynamic part of how we get there. Please don't let the union movement suffer when we will need it the most, by losing one of our best assets: LERC.

In unity,
Rebecca Sandoval
President of SEIU Sublocal 99
Vice President of SEIU Local 503

To: Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
From: Dean Richard Corsi
Date: July 23, 2020
RE: Engineering and Technology Sustaining Funds

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain and Members of Committee,

I am writing in support of the Co-Chairs Budget Framework that maintains funding of the Engineering and Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF) as adopted by the legislature in the 2019 session. I join with the engineering deans, faculty and students of OSU, OIT and UO in thanking the co-chairs for this important investment.

The ETSF is creating a dramatic positive impact on our state's economy. It sustains and lifts Oregon's engineering programs which, in turn, provide a workforce pipeline of highly-qualified and diverse graduates for private and public employers in Oregon.

At Portland State University the investment from the ETSF is transformational. Here are just a few of the remarkable statistics from PSU's Maseeh School of Engineering and Computer Science (MCECS) since the state initiated this critical program:

- MCECS has grown over 7% a year making it the fastest-growing college at PSU.
- Lives are transformed - 50 percent of students come in Pell-eligible and graduate with high paying jobs.
- In 2019, MCECS graduated over 750 students with over 80% of these graduates staying in Oregon. These graduates drive Oregon's economy and fuel innovation at employers throughout the state.
- PSU increased its research funding by a factor of three. These additional research dollars help to support additional faculty, provide research opportunities for students, and allow for multiple industry research partnerships.
- PSU is addressing the needs of the business and industry for a diverse workforce. At MCECS, 37% of engineering students are students of color.
- PSU graduates are integral to regional enterprise, over 1,000 graduates work at Intel alone.

I'd respectfully ask that you affirm the Co-Chairs' Budget Framework in order to allow us to support students, build a diverse workforce, and assist in the growth of Oregon's economy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dean Richard Corsi, PhD
Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science
Portland State University



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
15937 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97230

July 2, 2020

To: Oregon Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

As a child who was raised in an active Union household, I was advised to find a job doing what I loved...but it had to be a Union job. That directive from my parents led me to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 48 where I later connected with LERC.

My experience with LERC stretches over many years. I journeyed out of my apprentice in 1982 and was encouraged by my Local Union to attend LERC Summer Schools and leadership trainings. These classes empowered me and provided the education and assistance that I needed to engage with my Local Union and to also seek leadership roles, both in the IBEW and in the community. I served as an officer of my Local and also ran for Business Manager/Financial Secretary because of the instruction and support that I received from this vital organization. . I am proof that LERC builds leaders in the Labor Movement.

LERC has also consistently engaged in the important work of addressing racial justice within the employment context on a variety of levels. They encouraged me to develop and tell my story of being one of the first women of color admitted to a Building Trades apprenticeship program in the Pacific Northwest, a story that has been shared on multiple platforms to educate the Trades and the community. Their research has highlighted the importance of addressing racial and gender disparities, increasing access to training, and providing essential workers with the supports and power that we need for a better life. Last year, LERC hosted the National Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, which also speaks to their commitment to equity and racial justice.

LERC's research has not centered exclusively on the important work of addressing racial disparities in the workplace, but also spans across numerous other topics. Information they have gathered and studied has been a valuable resource when addressing issues around work scheduling, the unique needs and concerns of home health care workers, and the value and success of Union apprenticeship programs in developing a skilled and diverse workforce.



LERC continues to support me in my current role as Public Sector Business Representative for IBEW Local 48. The Collective Bargaining Institute provides insights and local networking opportunities that are priceless. I've been both a candidate and guest instructor at the Institute, and I intend to continue participating whenever possible because of the value it adds to my work and to the work of others. I love my job and my Union and I would not be where I am today without the training, staff, and support that I received from LERC.

In Solidarity,



Donna J. Hammond
Business Representative



July 23, 2020

To: Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

From: Dr. Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H., FACS
President
Oregon Health & Science University

Re: State general fund appropriation toward OHSU's mission to improve health in Oregon

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain and members of the committee,

I write today to express my sincere appreciation to you, and the tri-chairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, for the extraordinary effort underway to preserve essential state investments in public education, health care, child welfare, housing, economic development and other critical areas during this unprecedented public health and economic crisis. We recognize the tremendous sacrifices that Oregonians have made to protect the health of our communities and frontline workers during the pandemic, and the difficult choices required by our state leaders to respond to its enduring economic impacts.

The pandemic has had severe economic impacts around the world – including at OHSU. In March, as OHSU faced a projected loss of more than \$1 billion in the next several years, the university took swift and aggressive action to address significant budget shortfalls in the immediate 2021 fiscal year, while trying to avoid widespread layoffs. These actions included reducing spending on supplies and services by 15% and on capital by 20%; and implementing progressive salary reductions up to 18% on the portion of salaries over \$50,000 for all executive leadership, unclassified administrative staff, faculty and staff scientists. OHSU suspended all incentive plans across the institution for both the 2020 and 2021 fiscal years that also reduced the total annual compensation of many employees. Thus, because of the extraordinary impact that COVID-19 has had on all of OHSU's missions and revenue streams, financial mitigation strategies are already being utilized to a large degree across the institution. For this reason, reductions in the biennial state appropriation would, unfortunately, have even more adverse effects on our learners and programs.

I am humbled by the legislature's efforts to maintain support for OHSU's statewide education programs that allow us to train Oregon's next generation of health care providers in communities in all corners of the state. OHSU is Oregon's only public academic health center, and our public mission ensures our focus on achieving positive education and health outcomes for Oregonians. Our missions of research, health care and education are inextricably linked, with each reinforcing the others. It is truly thanks to the minimal, but critically important, state support that OHSU's education programs and other essential services to Oregonians are able to be sustained. Each state dollar is leveraged at least 2:1 to provide Oregonians with significant value for a relatively modest investment.

Our \$79 million 2019-2021 biennial state general fund appropriation supports a portion of the costs for OHSU's schools of medicine, nursing, and dentistry, the Oregon Poison Center, the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC), the Office for Rural Health and Area Health Education Center and a one-time investment in the Children's Integrated Health Database.

Outcomes include:

- The **OHSU School of Medicine** has been able to increase its class size from 140 to 160 per year to help meet the healthcare workforce needs of Oregon, thanks to state support. The appropriation supports medical students rotating in community settings by providing housing and paying clinical sites for preceptorships. These experiences for M.D. students in caring for rural and underserved Oregonians are essential because they increase the likelihood that medical students ultimately choose to work in rural and underserved areas of Oregon.
- The **OHSU School of Dentistry** is the only program training dentists in the state, with over half of the dentists practicing in Oregon received all or part of their training at OHSU. The school also serves as a safety net clinic that provides low cost care for thousands of patients every year. Nearly 40% of the dental school patients are funded through the Oregon Health Plan and many of the rest of its patients have limited means. State funding is critically important to help the school ensure that graduates can provide safe, high quality dental services to Oregonians. Our dental school also sends students all over the state as part of the university's Rural Health Initiative to provide care to underserved Oregonians.
- The **OHSU School of Nursing** partners with Oregon's four regional institutions to offer programs in Portland, online, and in-person at campuses across the state at OIT, SOU, WOU and EOU ensuring access to students no matter where they are in Oregon. Clinical education is a hallmark of the school's programs, and a signature element of the quality of its graduates who are prepared to meet workforce and practice needs in urban and rural Oregon. OHSU is also the single educator in Oregon for PhD and most DNP tracks, such as midwifery, nurse anesthesia, adult gerontology, pediatric, and psych-mental health and for an online Master in Nursing Education.
- For more than 100 years, the **CDRC** has provided unique, high quality, medically based interdisciplinary evaluative and treatment services to youth with complex special health care needs and disabilities, and their families. More than 11,000 unique patients are served annually. The State of Oregon funds the CDRC to ensure that Oregon's most medically vulnerable youth

have access to critical services delivered in a coordinated care system to minimize family disruption and promote optimal outcomes.

- The **Oregon Poison Center** is a vital service to Oregonians, now more than ever because the Oregon Health Authority asked the Oregon Poison Center to be partners in managing COVID-19 phone calls from Oregon clinicians. Although the primary expertise of the Oregon Poison Center's frontline practitioners includes preventing and managing toxic exposures, they are highly capable of handling public health emergencies. Because the Oregon Poison Center already has the infrastructure and expertise, it is able to mobilize quickly – within hours – to respond in the event of a region-wide emergency.

Finally, understanding that debt is a significant burden for our graduates, we are continually seeking ways to offset the educational costs they incur. Amidst unprecedented financial challenges related to the global coronavirus pandemic, OHSU has worked to identify additional scholarship funding sources with help from the OHSU Foundation. In the months and years ahead, OHSU is committed to continuing to look for ways to support, learn and grow alongside our students – Oregon's next generation of health care providers.

The success and vitality of OHSU's programs and our ability to provide critical services and education to Oregonians across the state are due to the critical state funding provided by the Oregon Legislature. As we work together to meet the challenges of a global health crisis, we continue to be thankful for our strong partnership with the state of Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H., FACS
President



July 22, 2020

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Child Development and Rehabilitation Center Budget Proposal

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and Committee Members:

I write today in support of the tri-chairs' budget proposal that maintains current state funding for the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). The CDRC is a statewide resource for youth with the most challenging disabilities and special health care needs, and state funding is a critical to supporting our mission to serve these children and their families and caregivers.

As director of the Eugene CDRC Clinic, I would like to share the important and unique role my team plays in supporting some of the state's most underserved communities in Southern, Eastern and Southwestern Oregon. We provide comprehensive assessment and management services for children with a variety of developmental needs through a team of psychologists, developmental pediatricians, speech-language pathologists, physical therapists, and occupational therapists. This combination of professionals who are experts in comprehensive care for children with disabilities complements community resources in a critical way.

CDRC providers serve children directly through the Eugene Clinic, which has been a permanent CDRC location for decades, as well as through outreach services to location such as Medford and Klamath Falls. Our outreach clinics are unique and provide direct medical service to rural communities where specialized care is not available. With 20 outreach clinics per year, the CDRC Eugene is critical to ensuring access to care for the region served. For many families, it is a significant challenge to travel with a child with a disability – both logistically and financially – which may result in them forgoing or deferring care. Our outreach program brings care directly to community members who need it.

Beyond direct care to children and families, the CDRC Eugene outreach teams serve an important role for increasing the capacity of local providers through training and consultation. Our office supports a

School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics

Institute on Development
and Disability

Dianne Hrubec, MS, PT
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Mail Code:
Child Development and
Rehabilitation Center
901 E. 18th St
Eugene, OR 97403

The Institute Includes:

Child Development and
Rehabilitation Center

University Affiliated Center for
Excellence in Developmental
Disabilities

Oregon Center for Children and
Youth with Special Health Needs

Oregon Office on Disability and
Health

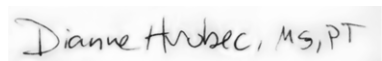
Hemophilia Program

Leadership Education in
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

fellowship in Developmental-Behavioral pediatrics, which provides advanced training to pediatricians. Further, our experts support resident training in rural medicine in Klamath Falls. We consult with local clinics and Early Intervention Programs throughout rural Oregon, to improve access to specialty care. Our faculty are active in training and consultation to local providers in behavioral medicine and provide expertise in therapeutic equipment. CDRC Eugene outreach programs support the overall quality of medical care to children and helps to strengthen local resources.

Continued support for the CDRC is not only an excellent investment in promoting healthy communities, and improving outcomes for children with special health care needs, but also specifically benefits underserved communities, and some of the most vulnerable children who often lack access to specialty care. I understand the Legislature faces many difficult choices ahead in allocating Oregon's limited resources, and hope the CDRC, and the children and families we serve, will remain a priority in the months and years to come. Thank you for your service and commitment to Oregonians most in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Hrubec, MS, PT". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular background.

Dianne Hrubec, MS, PT
Eugene Clinical Director
Child Development and Rehabilitation Center



July 22, 2020

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Legislative Fiscal Office
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Re: *Child Development and Rehabilitation Center Budget Proposal*

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and Committee Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to add my voice of support for the Co-Chairs' budget proposal which maintains current state funding for the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). Having worked with the CDRC for 18 years, and now serving as director of OHSU's Institute on Development and Disability (IDD) within the Department of Pediatrics, which includes the CDRC, I can attest first-hand to the essential role the CDRC plays in the lives of Oregon's youth with disabilities and special health care needs, and the lives of parents and families whose children access CDRC services. State support is vital to ensuring the CDRC can continue its important work.

With locations in the Portland metro area and Eugene, as well as outreach locations across the state – including, but not limited to, Hermiston, Bend, Medford and Klamath Falls – the CDRC proudly offers exceptional evaluation, management, and intervention services for youth with complex disabilities and special health care needs. The CDRC complements community-based care by ensuring highly specialized and multidisciplinary tertiary services are available for Oregon's children. Holistic, multidisciplinary care is critical to promoting healthy outcomes for children with complex, multi-system needs. It is also a resource intensive model, which must be maintained to promote the best possible outcomes.

The CDRC, which serves approximately 11,000 patients annually, addresses unmet health care needs of Oregon's youth by providing services that are often not available elsewhere in the state and serving children and families with limited or no health insurance. In fact, approximately 60% of families served by the CDRC are covered by Medicaid or are without health insurance; for our CDRC Eugene location, the number is higher – approximately 70% of patients served are covered by Medicaid. The CDRC creates an important safety net for these families who otherwise may not have the resources to connect their high-needs children with nationally recognized experts at OHSU to receive critical health care services.

**School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics**

**Institute on Development
and Disability**

Kurt A. Freeman, PhD, ABPP

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The Institute Includes:

Child Development and
Rehabilitation Center

University Affiliated Center for
Excellence in Developmental
Disabilities

Oregon Center for Children and
Youth with Special Health Needs

Oregon Office on Disability and
Health

Hemophilia Program

Leadership Education in
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

July 22, 2020

Correspondence to the Joint Ways and Means Committee

Page 2 of 2

It's difficult to fully convey the impact and true necessity of CDRC services. I could fill a book with stories and cases of how the OHSU CDRC's specialized services help some of the most complex youth with disabilities, and their very worried and overwhelmed families and care givers.

- Our developmental pediatricians and geneticists collaborate to help identify the presence of an extremely rare disorders experienced by children. Community providers sometimes realize a child is experiencing differences but are unable to identify cause or explanation.
- Our early childhood multidisciplinary evaluation team helps families understand and develop a treatment plan for complex combinations of developmental, motor, language, and behavioral differences experienced by children – a combination of developmental differences not easily understood when seen by just one type of professional.
- Our assistive and communication technology experts help identify and implement use of specialized technology to promote a child's ability to engage with others and their community, like being able to use a communication devise to order a meal at a restaurant or make new friends.

State funding is critical to supporting CDRC's mission. Your support provides the CDRC with resources necessary to meet patient needs in ways not possible with reduced, or without, state funding. Continued support for the CDRC is an excellent investment in promoting success and positive outcomes for Oregonians with disabilities, one that pays dividends in the lives of our patients and their families.

On behalf of OHSU and the entire CDRC team, thank you for recognizing and prioritizing the essential services that the CDRC provides Oregon's high-needs youth by maintaining state support during what is an incredibly difficult time for our state. Your continuous support demonstrates a compassionate investment directed toward the lives of Oregonians who are in critical need of the services the CDRC offers.

Respectfully,



Kurt A. Freeman, PhD, ABPP
Director, Institute on Development &
Disability
Fred Fax Professor of Pediatric Excellence



July 22, 2020

Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education
c/o Co-Chairs Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Susan McLain
Submitted electronically

RE: Testimony on Budget Considerations - HECC

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing this letter to support continued and sustained funding for the University of Oregon Domestic Violence Clinic (DV Clinic). As a staff attorney at the DV Clinic I provide free legal services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence and stalking. Our clients are either low income or students attending a higher education institution in Lane County. The Clinic also supports two clinical courses, which provide certified law students the opportunity to get hands-on experience in representing survivors in both family law and protective order matters.

The DV Clinic plays a unique and important role in increasing access to justice in Oregon. This is especially true during the COVID-19 Pandemic, when many survivors' support systems and access to resources have become significantly limited. We are working closely with our community partners to ensure that even while we transition to remote work, we continue to be available to the increasing needs of survivors, especially as it relates to accessing the legal system to keep themselves, and often their children, safe. At the same time, we have also moved our clinic courses online, so that law students can continue to learn and serve clients and develop the legal skills necessary to serve survivors in an ever-changing legal landscape. The HECC funds the DV Clinic receives are vital to ensuring we can continue to educate students in this important area of the law, while at the same time providing free legal representation to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

It is an incredible privilege to serve survivors and teach law students to do the same, but because our office is predominantly grant funded there is always trepidation in not knowing if our funding will continue. The continuity of the HECC funding makes the DV Clinic's work viable, which is why it is my sincere hope that this committee will recognize the incredible value the DV Clinic offers to not only survivors of domestic and sexual violence, but also the law students at Oregon's only publicly funded law school. Therefore, I respectfully ask that continued and sustained funding be provided to the Domestic Violence Clinical Legal Education Fund.

Sincerely, *K. Mlynski*

Katarzyna (Kasia) Mlynski, Staff Attorney
University of Oregon, Domestic Violence Clinic



PO Box 10486
Eugene, OR 97440
Phone: 541-346-8555 | Fax: 541-346-9166



*IATSE Local 488 Studio Mechanics of the Pacific Northwest
4105 SW 45th Avenue/#204, Portland, OR, 97221*

The Labor Education and Research Center of the University of Oregon has and continues to be an invaluable resource for all of Oregon's Unions. Our I.A.T.S.E. Local 488 has benefited from the amazing knowledge and skills of the LERC staff in numerous ways including:

- Assistance in developing a strong, long and short term plan for our organization allowing our organization to have a smooth transition from an officer corps who had served over 25 years to a brand new set of officers. The retreats have since been with each election cycle.
- Individual leadership training of our Officers and Board members including:
 - Labor Leadership Academy: provided intensive training, guidance and focus on our project Oregon Media Pathways. This vital project developed a diversity, equity and inclusion workforce development program. The Collective Bargaining Institute teaching new officers the art of bargaining
 - LERC Summer School providing education and inspiration to many officers and members each year, as well as a chance to engage with members of other Unions..
 - Metro Leadership School: providing members and officers with valuable skills to be Stewards and stronger leaders for our Local
- LERC faculty and staff have taught numerous classes of the past decade to our International's IATSE Officer Institute, spreading knowledge across the US and Canada
- LERC helped us in the development of our Steward Training program
- And LERC along with other partners holds the Cascade Regional Labor Leadership Initiative (CRLLI) providing opportunities for 6 months of engagement between leaders of Labor Unions and Community Organizations from across Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Attending this creates long lasting bonds and collaborative partnerships between these groups who are constantly building a better world.

Since the U of O cut their budget last year, LERC now gets an even greater percentage of its funding from the legislature as a "state public program." Therefore, it becomes critically important to maintain this funding which is key to LERC's future ability to do the work of educating, building, and lifting up the voice of workers and community members to build a more equitable world.

I wouldn't be the labor leader I am, nor would my Union be what it is without the incredibly talented and skilled faculty and staff of LERC. This is a resource Oregon desperately needs more than ever to face our uncertain future.

Sincerely,

cdavid cottrill
Business Agent, IATSE Local 488
SouthernBA@IATSE488.org / 503.673.1133



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
15937 NE Airport Way
Portland, OR 97230

Oregon Legislature Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee,

My name is Wayne Chow, and I am the President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 48. We represent over 5,000 members that make a family wage in the construction industry that covers 10 counties here in Oregon.

Labor unions in Oregon have a long history of lifting up the working class and keeping our economy going for all workers both represented by a union and those that are not. We dedicate a lot of time and resources into educating workers on their rights and fight against things like wage theft, safety, and prevailing wage violations; to name a few.

As we the workers are out there working every day, providing for our families, our unions need the tools and resources to keep to the values we represent. The education the University of Oregon's Labor Education & Research Center (LERC) has provided to both our leadership and membership has been invaluable. For many years they have been educating our leadership and dedicated to educating our next generation of leaders. I can personally speak on this since I am a product of their work.

We rely heavily on LERC to help provide the tools and resources that are used to benefit all workers. These include our shared commitment to promoting and defending fair labor standards, research and advocacy aimed at supporting apprenticeship programs, and research on issues vital to our industry such as the prevailing wage, renewable energy, and all the challenges we face with racial and gender equality. These services represent an unmeasurable asset to IBEW 48 and all of the building trades.

The negative impact of budget cuts to LERC deeply influences working class Oregonians in the long term. The research and education LERC provides is not something that we can afford to lose or minimize. A department with a drastically reduced budget cannot provide the services we rely on with any long term consistency. Over a 40-year history, the work LERC has been providing has been a part of what makes Oregon a great place to live.

On behalf of the members of IBEW Local 48 and our families, we are asking the Joint Ways and Means Committee on Education to consider the importance of funding and maintaining such an important program. Furthermore, what LERC provides will be even more essential in shaping post pandemic strategies for the benefit of workers and the support we will all need.

Respectfully yours,

Wayne Chow
President
WC:lk
OPEIU#11/AFL-CIO





July 21, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS

Audubon Society of Portland*

City of Fairview

City of Gresham

City of Portland

City of Troutdale

Columbia Corridor Business Association*

Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

East Columbia Neighborhood*

Metro

Multnomah County

Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD)

Peninsula Drainage District #1 (PEN 1)

Peninsula Drainage District #2 (PEN 2)

Port of Portland

Sandy Drainage Improvement Company (SDIC)

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-477
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for Oregon Solutions

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain,

We are writing to request the Oregon Joint Committee Interim Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education support the retention of critical funding for **Oregon Solutions**. Over the last five years, Oregon Solutions was instrumental in supporting the Levee Ready Columbia process and the resulting Senate Bill 431, sponsored by Senators Frederick and Monnes Anderson, that focuses on modernizing the levee system and governance of one of the most critical infrastructure systems in the Portland region. The skilled facilitation provided by Oregon Solution made an extremely challenging exercise possible. While we fully recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic creates challenging times for the State of Oregon, we ask that you continue to fund Oregon Solutions. Their work of bringing diverse communities of interest together to tackle challenges is more critical now than ever before.

For over eight years, Oregon Solutions has kept a large partnership of over twenty public, private, and community organizations working collaboratively to reduce the risk of flooding and focus on the modernization of the 27-mile levee system. A system that protects an area containing more than 7,500 residents, 59,000 jobs, \$16 billion in annual economic activity, \$7.4 billion in assessed property value, important public assets like the Portland International Airport, as well as thousands of acres of greenspace and habitat.

Following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Superstorm Sandy in 2011, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Federal Emergency Management System (FEMA) made significant changes to the federal safety standards for the nation’s levees, putting far more responsibility and cost on local levee operators. As a result of these changes, the four Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts that operate and maintain the local levee system were notified that certification of the levee system was set to expire unless they could prove the system complied with the new safety standards. To prove compliance, a significant geotechnical and hydrologic evaluation of the system was needed, which would cost at least \$5 million. Moreover, **without** certification, FEMA would be able to revoke accreditation of the levees at any time. FEMA accreditation provides the residents and business owners behind the levees with the option of having flood insurance and provides them with access to lower cost insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program, as well as access to federal aid in the event of an emergency and increased flexibility around land use and development standards in the managed floodplain. Loss of this accreditation would result in FEMA remapping of the area as a 100-year floodplain, which would lead to mandatory private insurance for property owners and significant changes to local land use regulations and building codes. Addressing both the physical and

* non-voting advisory member

legal liabilities of the system was urgently needed, but there was no institutional structure for bringing all the stakeholders together and securing the necessary funding.

Oregon Solutions fills the gap

Recognizing the challenges ahead, several key stakeholders, including the four Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts, the Port of Portland, Metro, and the City of Portland, requested help from Oregon Solutions. These key organizations recognized the value of Oregon Solutions, created in 2001 (HB 3945), as the state's premier program designated to bring collaborative governance to work on complicated community-based challenges. Once an issue has been designated as an Oregon Solution project by the Governor, the Oregon Solutions team identifies conveners and provides experienced facilitators, skilled staff, and a neutral forum to help communities bring public, private, and nonprofit partners together to solve community problems. Oregon Solutions helps convene and facilitate important public projects requiring professional collaboration, neutral third-party statewide expertise, and credibility to the project

The LRC Partnership, with Oregon Solutions' support, successfully negotiated joint funding of major engineering analyses to ensure the levee system continues to meet federal safety standards and maintains access to federal flood insurance and emergency aid. The project partners, again with professional Oregon Solutions' staff successfully advocated for the creation of a loan and grant fund for levee projects throughout the state through the Infrastructure Finance Authority of the Oregon Business Development Department. Oregon Solutions was instrumental in the working with the LRC to develop Senate Bill 431, creating the Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District (UFSWQD), approved by the State Legislature in 2019 This new special district is better equipped to provide the Columbia Corridor with a more modern and sustainable vehicle to support the flood safety system that protects the Portland International Airport, the regional economic engine, Oregon's second largest source of drinking water, and many other important assets. In addition to flood safety and emergency response, UFSWQD's expanded responsibilities including ensuring equity is embedded in all aspects of its operations as well as preparing for climate change and contributing to environmental uplift in the region.

The Levee Ready Columbia Oregon Solutions project team concluded its work on June 30th by facilitating the formation of the Initial UFSWQD Board. With the diverse and complex interests of all the stakeholders, Oregon Solutions provided the LRC partnership with a neutral forum and the skilled senior facilitation that was needed to keep the process focused and successful.

As the current Chair of the ongoing Levee Ready Columbia Intergovernmental Agreement Board, I can personally say that the Oregon Solutions' process, facilitators, and staff provide an immense resource to our community, encouraging collaborative and creative solutions to challenging issues. They made this project possible. We believe their services will be just as essential as Oregon communities face the current challenges of COVID-19 and other unforeseen events. Oregon Solutions should be preserved.

Thank you for your consideration and please note our full support for maintaining funding of Oregon Solutions.

Sincerely,



Nolan Young
Chair, Levee Ready Columbia Board

Cc: State Senator Arnie Roblan; State Senator Chuck Thomsen; State Representative Teresa Alonso Leon; State Representative Mark Meek; State Representative Mike Nearman; State Representative Carl Wilson; Doug Wilson, LFO; Audrey Nieswandt, LFO; and Jules Bailey

July 23, 2020

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain and members of the committee,

My family began our journey with OHSU's Child Development and Rehabilitation Center (CDRC) in 2014. I came to them in desperate need of answers for my twin boys, who were not developing appropriately and showing signs of being autistic. I was so frustrated, and I felt defeated in my pursuit to find out what was happening with my children. Everyone I reached out to for assistance made me feel like I was crazy or a bad mom for talking about the problems I saw in my children. But of course that was not my goal. I needed someone to help, and no one seemed to listen or care.

When we arrived at the CDRC clinic, I was ready for a battle – I needed answers, and I wasn't going to leave there without them. I had binders, folders, videos, and all of what I was experiencing with my boys documented. Amazingly, within the first few minutes of the evaluation I found that I didn't need to battle any longer. The CDRC staff that we met with must have seen something in my body language or in the tone of my voice or maybe it was simply the experience they have working with families like mine every day, but whatever it was, at that moment, they told me the most profound words that I will take with me forever. They said, "Mom, it's okay. We understand. We see what you see, and we're here to help you. You will not leave here without answers."

Finally, I was able to breathe for the first time in two years. Someone validated that I know my children, and that I'm not a bad mom. That there is someone out there who understands and will show love, compassion, patience, and dedication to figuring out what was happening to my children and helping us move forward. It's difficult to put into words how much the CDRC clinic has done for my family.

In fact, the outstanding work of the staff and providers at OHSU's CDRC clinic led me to come back to them for my other three children. I knew there was no other place that would understand what my family was going through. I knew that if the CDRC staff didn't have the answers, they would take it upon themselves to find someone who could help, and that my children would be referred to whatever services they needed. The CDRC clinic has not only helped my children grow but they've helped me grow as well – I owe a lot to the amazing team at the CDRC. From the doctors to the staff at reception, they truly go above and beyond for their families. OHSU's CDRC is my family's second home, and we can't wait to return there to see all the wonderful and caring people who continue to put my family's health and wellbeing first.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my family's story. As you consider the many difficult choices in front of you, I ask that you remember that there are many other families in Oregon with similar stories, who are searching for answers just like I was, and need the support of the CDRC.

Thank you,
Kari Quigley



Willamette Falls Locks
COMMISSION

July 22, 2020

The Honorable Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-477
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

We are writing as the Chair and Co-Vice Chairs of the Willamette Falls Locks Commission (WFLC) to request the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means support full funding for Oregon Solutions.

Oregon Solutions was created in 2001 (HB 3945) as the state's designated program using collaborative governance approaches to work on community-based projects. It identifies conveners and provides experienced facilitators, skilled staff, and a non-partisan, neutral forum to help communities bring public, private, and nonprofit partners together to solve community problems and implement public projects which might not otherwise be successful without their assistance and recognized expertise.

The Willamette Falls Locks Commission has received tremendous support from Oregon Solutions through legislative funding provided in the past two biennia. This effort to restore and reopen the Locks has a long history, and Oregon Solutions has twice provided key support for collaboration among local and regional governments, tribes, tourism and economic development interests, the private sector, and citizens from across the region.

A repaired and reopened Locks facility would bring significant economic, cultural and recreational benefits to the region's residents and businesses and would create millions of dollars in transportation and recreation benefits for Oregonians – all while reducing freight traffic on regional roadways. In addition, a restored and reopened Locks will contribute to the transportation and infrastructure resiliency of the region in the event of a major earthquake. There is strong and continued support for repairing and reopening the Willamette Falls Locks from a broad constituency of local and regional communities as well as private businesses and other entities interested in economic development. Oregon Solutions has been and continues to provide crucial support to the Commission's efforts to restore and reopen the Locks.

The neutral forum and skilled facilitation provided by Oregon Solutions were essential to the Commission's success in developing and advancing a complex and comprehensive governance model and business plan for restoring and reopening the Locks. House Bill 4150 was introduced to establish a public corporation (the Willamette Falls Locks Authority) to own, repair, operate and

manage the Willamette Falls navigation canal and locks and enjoyed broad bipartisan support, passing unanimously out of both the Joint Committee on Transportation and the full the House of Representatives. Similarly, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction and then the full Joint Committee on Ways and Means passed HB 5202, including \$7 million for repairs to the Locks. (Both bills failed to advance further only because of a lack of quorum in the legislature.)

As the Leadership of the Willamette Falls Locks Commission, we can personally say that the Oregon Solutions process, facilitators, and staff provide an immense resource for the community, the region, and the state at large as they encourage and enable collaborative and creative solutions to challenging issues.

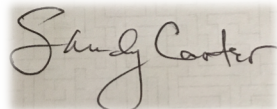
Sincerely,



Russell B. Axelrod
Mayor, City of West Linn
Chair, Willamette Falls Locks Commission



Martha Schrader
Commissioner, Clackamas County
Co-Vice Chair, Willamette Falls Locks Commission



Sandy Carter
Co-Vice Chair, Willamette Falls Locks Commission



July 3, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

LERC's impact on the work of school employees and Oregon Education Association's (OEA) union members across the state is sometimes subtle, yet powerful. OEA has a long-standing relationship with LERC that evolved into a partnership that supports members in learning to lead in their professions and communities. Many of our staff and members have joined LERC faculty in learning experiences that allow them to expand both their knowledge and their skills to make workplaces safe, supportive and productive environments.

Organizationally, OEA also brought in LERC to help develop leadership curriculum and mentor support to elevate the labor management relationships and create healthier, safe and more active workplaces. The partnership created interactive training modules that are grounded in tried and true practices from across the workforce and then adapted to the public school setting in Oregon.

Both Covid-19 and the current racial disparity in our country will continue to impact our work and homelives far into the future. It is our responsibility to support work that moves us all into a better, more equitable place. It is our responsibility to support the workers that will get us all there. I believe LERC's work in applied research is a critical element in this journey and inspires problem solving and challenges our thinking.

I cannot close without emphasizing the professionalism, creativity and hardworking staff at LERC. They have a grace and expertise that has served Oregonians well and I hope they can do so for many decades to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Crumpton

Susan Crumpton
Assistant Executive Director
Oregon Education Association

Working Wonders for Public Education



Oregon State
University

**College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric
Sciences**

Oregon State University
104 CEOAS Administration Building
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-5503
(541) 737-3504
ceas.oregonstate.edu

20 July 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Co-chairs, Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony as you consider potential budget rebalancing options. I serve as director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), which is hosted by the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University (OSU). OCCRI is a network of dozens of researchers at OSU, Portland State University, and the University of Oregon. OCCRI also houses the Oregon Climate Service (OCS), which is recognized by the American Association of State Climatologists as Oregon's state climate office. We are proud to serve our state's leaders, agencies, and fellow residents; engage with communities that may be affected disproportionately by climate change; and participate in training future generations of researchers, practitioners, civil servants, and scientifically informed residents.

OCCRI was created in 2007 by the Oregon State Legislature under House Bill 3543. Among OCCRI's charges from the Legislature is "assess[ment of] . . . the state of climate change science, including biological, physical and social science, as it relates to Oregon and the likely effects of climate change on the state." State support to OCCRI has yielded an approximately 12-fold financial return on investment. Over the past ten years, OCCRI received about \$320,000 per biennium in state support. We leveraged this support to secure approximately \$20 million in competitive grants and contracts for climate change-related research at OSU and its partner universities within Oregon. Any reduction in state support negatively will affect our ability to maintain this successful research enterprise. Oregon's public universities are unable to absorb additional costs to support OCCRI. Because some extramural programs require a non-federal match, we also will become less competitive for obtaining alternative sources of funding.

To meet its charges from the Legislature, OCCRI serves roles that include the following.

- **OCCRI facilitates research on climate change and its effects on natural and human systems in Oregon.** OCCRI's research portfolio is broad and deep. We have led or collaborated on research related to future climate, climate variability, and climate extremes in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, and contributed to national climate assessments. We conduct research on responses to climate change of fire dynamics, agriculture, fisheries, and threatened species. OCCRI also works directly with tribal communities and is a leader on incorporation and protection of Traditional Knowledges in all phases of vulnerability assessment and adaptation and resilience planning. Our work is highly applicable to addressing compounded exposures of isolated and underserved communities to multiple threats to public health.

OCCRI serves as a clearinghouse for climate change information. OCCRI regularly synthesizes the best science and information available on observed climate, projected future climate, and observed and future effects of climate on diverse regions, sectors, and populations throughout Oregon. Our network of researchers and partnerships allows us to rapidly provide policy makers, agencies, and the public with information and assistance that is tailored to their needs. Our team also makes information available via climate toolboxes, media engagement, and public presentations.

- **OCCRI provides climate change information to the public in integrated and accessible formats.** As an example of the relevance OCCRI's work to the public, the Oregon State Climatologist, Dr. Larry O'Neill, serves as a member of the Oregon Drought Monitor Advisory Committee. This committee contributes to weekly recommendations to the national Drought Monitor, which often is used as a tool for evaluating county-level drought emergency declarations. Dr. O'Neill also serves as a member of the Water Supply Availability Committee and Drought Readiness Council. The latter two groups advise the Governor's office on water availability and drought declarations in the state of Oregon.

- **OCCRI supports the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) in developing strategies to prepare for and to mitigate the effects of climate change on natural and human systems.** Executive Order 20-04 cites OCCRI's research on the effects of climate change as one motivation for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. OCCRI's reports and testimony to the Legislature also have informed development of policies for greenhouse gas reductions. Not only do we support the OGWC, but we collaborate regularly with the Department of Land Conservation and Development to support mitigation plans for natural hazards. The state's draft Climate Change Adaptation Framework notes that OCCRI's climate projections and scenarios help to ensure access to current guidance on interpreting and integrating climate projections into planning processes.

- **OCCRI provides technical assistance to local governments in developing climate change policies, practices, and programs.** As an example, OCCRI collaborates with local coastal communities, such as those in Tillamook County, to explore potential effects of climate change on hazards such as sea level rise-induced flooding and erosion. Deep and sustained relationships between OCCRI and these communities also contribute to assessment of adaptation scenarios as exposure to climate-related hazards increases.

- **OCCRI produces a biennial assessment on the state of the science of climate change as it applies to Oregon and the likely effects of climate change on the state.** This report provides legislators, nonprofit organizations, media, and all Oregonians with in-depth knowledge about changes in climate and its potential effects in the near to moderate term. OCCRI's reports also leverage the collective knowledge presented at the annual Pacific Northwest Climate Conference. This event, co-founded by OCCRI, is attended by 300-500 scientists, planners, and resource managers who track the best science available on climate change and its practical applications.

Thank you again. Please contact me if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Erica Fleishman

Erica Fleishman, Ph.D.

erica.fleishman@oregonstate.edu • (805) 291-6258



July 21, 2020

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-477
Salem, Oregon 97301

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DIRECTOR**

Mary Paulson

Dear Senator. Frederick and Representative McLain:

I am writing to request the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means support full funding for **Oregon Consensus**, funded as a part of the dispute resolution services allocation.

For 25 years, Oregon Consensus has been fulfilling its legislative mandate to provide alternative dispute resolution and agreement-seeking services to Oregon state agencies and communities. It designs and facilitates collaborative projects that bring communities, government, nonprofit, and businesses to find new approaches to contentious public issues.

As a member of the state Advisory Committee on the future of the Elliott State Forest, which has been facilitated by Oregon Consensus, I have experienced firsthand the benefit that this program provides in bringing parties together to resolve difficult issues facing our state and communities. Oregon Consensus has been instrumental at keeping parties together, building relationships, and developing a process that maximizes the potential for resolution of this important issue.

The Oregon Consensus program provides a very distinct and important service to our state in reaching agreements on contentious issues and fostering understanding across divides. In these times as much as any we need to invest in programs and services that build community and encourage dialogue across our differences. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of this program and hope it will continue to be supported in full.

Sincerely,

Mary Paulson
Deputy Executive Director

- C: State Senator Arnie Roblan
- State Senator Chuck Thomsen
- State Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
- State Representative Christine Drazan
- State Representative Mark Meek
- State Representative Mike Nearman
- Doug Wilson, LFO
- Audrey Nieswandt, LFO

Regarding the Decision to Cut Funding for the Oregon Promise Grant

To Senator Lew Frederick; Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain; Member Senator Arnie

Roblan; Member Senator Chuck Thomsen; Member Representative Teresa Alonso Leon;

Member Representative Mark Meek; Member Representative Mike Nearman; and

Member Representative Carl Wilson,

My name is McKenzie Britton. I live in Aumsville, Oregon and I am from Marion County. I am a 2020 graduate from Cascade Senior High School in Turner, OR. I was tentatively approved to be an Oregon Promise Grant recipient but I am now afraid that I will no longer be eligible for my grant. My experience in the education system has not been as planned. I was born during a terrorist attack, that I spent my whole school years learning about each and every year, yet I never experienced what it was like to watch the Twin Towers fall on television live. However, I have enjoyed the teachers and good friends I had the opportunity to meet along the way. My teachers have inspired me to do things that I never thought I would be able to do and have pushed me towards my dreams. I am incredibly grateful to my teachers who have encouraged me towards STEM as I now plan to major in and have a career as a woman in STEM. I graduated with a 3.78 weighted GPA and 65 hours of community service hours throughout my high school years. I also worked a part-time job as a janitor in my sophomore and junior year. I am an inducted member of the National Honors Society. I was the Uniform Manager and section leader for my high school band. I was involved in pep band, marching band, symphonic band, and jazz band where I played soprano and tenor saxophone. I am also a

female programmer who competed in OGPC 2016 and won “Best Game Design” for my game *Elatis* at the high school level. During the summer, I worked for the Cascade School District for two consecutive years at a CTE Camp where I was a camp counselor for middle school-aged kids. My specialty was in teaching kids to program. I felt accomplished to know that I could inspire younger people to engage in STEM-related activities, especially because STEM is male-dominated. It brings me joy to see young women excelling in STEM activities as I was once a young woman new to STEM and intimidated by it. During my senior year, the Environmental club was founded, which I joined but we did not get the opportunity to complete what we had planned this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. For my entire whole high school years, I grinded to have a great GPA, graduating with a 3.78 weighted GPA. I was involved in numerous extracurriculars, had a part-time job, and 65 hours of volunteer hours. My senior year was not how I expected. My mother was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck and had to get a third of her tongue removed. I spent my senior year depressed, anxious, and stressed over my future and worried about the health of my mother. When my mother was allowed to be home from her surgery she had to be on a feeding tube and could only eat liquids. We had to give her pain medicine every couple of hours. She had to sleep in a recliner in the living room sitting up so that she would not choke and die on her fluids. I slept in the living room every day worried for my mother and making sure she got her pain medicine. I did my homework by her side and woke up in the middle of school nights to take care of her. I applied to over 100 scholarships and the only scholarships I was awarded Chemeketa Scholars and the Oregon Promise Grant. Today, July 23rd, 2020, I received an email stating that because of the COVID-19 pandemic there is a lack of funding available for the

Oregon Promise Grant and that people with EFC over 18,000 may or may not have their grants revoked due to this. I disapprove of your decision of budget cuts to the Oregon Promise Grant. My peers and I have worked very hard over our entire high school careers in an attempt to be viable candidates to be eligible for the Oregon Promise Grant. If I had known that I would not be awarded the Oregon Promise Grant because of cuts in the budget due to a pandemic, I would not have pushed myself to extreme lengths to have all of these achievements for naught. I feel insulted that a grant that was tentatively awarded to me is at risk of being taken away after I have shed numerous tears, wasted countless hours, and not slept for numerous days on end all because I was stressed over maintaining eligibility for the Oregon Promise Grant. This pandemic has already affected the only part of my schooling that I looked forward to. There was no state band competition for me, no prom, no senior all-night party, no graduation, no yearbook signings, and no closure. A pandemic may have ruined my senior year but it should not impact the future of the rest of my life. I am studying to become a Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist as it is a dream of mine. I hope that I can be of influence to other young girls wanting to become involved in STEM when I am an adult. I do not have enough money to pay for my lab fees, lab equipment, textbooks, and other expenses throughout my college years. My parents cannot afford to help me pay for college when they are paying for my mother's medical bills. I felt accomplished and pleased when I was tentatively awarded my Oregon Promise grant. Now I only feel insulted that I wasted so many hours in high school to get such high achievements that were irrelevant. It feels like a slap in the face that the Oregon Department of Education would hold a bait out to me my entire years throughout schooling saying, "If you do a good job, you can get this!" Well, I did a good job and I potentially will receive nothing. I have also contacted my other senior friends

who graduated with me. They have confirmed that they received the same notification as I did about grants tentatively being revoked. Many of us are scared as post-high school education is already outrageously expensive. We are afraid of crippling student debt and not even the Oregon Department of Education can give even a minuscule amount of money to us that would allow us to pay for tuition, textbooks, and for lab fees and equipment. I feel insulted that all my work in high school was for nothing. It feels like the government has no compassion for the class of 2020. Just because I graduated during a pandemic does not mean that my aspirations are any less important than that of the class of 2019 or the class of 2021. People who were not on set to graduate in 2020 are probably more lucky than I am right now because next year they will be able to qualify for the Oregon Promise Grant when I was not able to. Because of budget cuts over the pandemic that ruined the only good part of high school, my future is now being impacted but people the same age as me who will graduate next year will not be affected in the way I was. I am sincerely disappointed and disapprove of your budget cuts to the Oregon Promise Grant. My peers and I have aspirations to do great things and my future should not be dictated over a pandemic but I am now worried over squandering up money to pay for my textbooks and lab fees come the Fall of 2020 as I previously thought I was awarded the Oregon Promise Grant. My EFC is over 18,000 so I am afraid I will no longer qualify for a Grant that I worked hard for throughout my whole high school career.

It is with sincerity that I hope you will reconsider your decision in budget cuts to the Board of Education, you can adjust your budget elsewhere. It is insulting that during a pandemic, during job scarcity, and unemployment ranks spiking, that you believe college kids will be able to afford

this. We are not even eligible to get stimulus checks either during this pandemic. How do you expect my peers and I to be able to make up for this money that we desperately needed to help pay for our future educations? During a pandemic is not the time to be cutting the budget for education. Education is needed. I urge you to reconsider and to cultivate your money from a different department than the Department of Education and through cutting the budget for the Oregon Promise Grant that my peers and I have worked so hard to be able to earn.

With Kind Regards,

McKenzie Britton

Oregon Promise
Friday, July 24, 2020 8:46:07 AM

Hello, and thank you for offering the opportunity to provide comment. My comments will be brief and targeted at the Oregon Promise Scholarship program.

My daughter received a letter from the Oregon Promise program notifying her that her award might be withdrawn because our 2019 family income level exceeds a threshold to be determined.

I would Strongly urge you to not cut this program. If you must cut the program, please use other metrics that consider merit over 2019 income. For many families in Oregon, 2019 income data is not relevant to their 2020, COVID impacted income.

Please do not allow any withdrawal of awarded scholarships. The Oregon Promise should honor it's name.

Thanks
Tim Vredenburg

From:
To:
Subject: Oregon Promise
Date: Friday, July 24, 2020 6:55:26 AM

Hello,

I am writing to you as a third year college student at Oregon Institute of Technology. I would like to tell you that defunding the Oregon Promise Grant and decreasing the expected family contribution cut off only weeks before students are to resume classes is not only morally wrong, but is putting a huge financial burden on middle class families like my own during this time. My parents make enough money for my family to live a comfortable life, yet not enough to pay for my four year education. We are considered "middle class". Yet, I receive minimal to no federal financial aid. The Oregon Promise Grant I received during the 2018-2020 academic years helped me put myself through community college and I was able to save enough to continue for two ore years at a university. Without those two years and financial aid, I would not have enough money even with loans to cover my next two years at OIT. I earned that through merit, not expected family contribution. Taking away this award for middle class students like myself is taking away the ability to obtain a higher education in Oregon. Community College is still VERY expensive. I can't imagine counting on a grant to help me pay for the upcoming year and having it stripped away weeks before starting school. I hope you and your colleagues reconsidered your actions and know that they are putting a huge financial burden on many families and first/ second year college kids.

Sincerely,

Sierra Shelton
Student Dental Hygienist
Oregon Institute of Technology- Salem Campus

Memo

To: Bob Bussel, Director
University of Oregon Labor Education & Research Center

From: Rick Shidaker, Executive Director
Oregon School Employees Association

Date: June 29, 2020

Re: All Costs Considered Reports

For more than 20 years, the leadership and members of the Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA) have been fortunate to have participated in many of the Labor Education & Research Center (LERC) trainings and programs. The trainings have been invaluable to our classified employees (for example, leadership and public speaking) because these are not trainings typically offered by their employer. In addition, the staff at LERC has always been available to provide information and training as our culture has changed. Equal pay, diversity and work place bullying are just a few of the areas OSEA has relied on the staff at LERC for guidance and training of our members.

As a union that represents classified school employees, when faced with a continuing elimination of classified school jobs to private contracted services, the staff at LERC published a series of research papers titled "All Costs Considered." These reports sought to provide school boards, parents and the general public with information and analysis intended to assist them in determining whether or not contracting out is an appropriate option for their district. The series of the four "All Costs Considered" reports were not just of value to OSEA in bargaining over contracting out, but also provided documentation and analysis valuable to the school districts, boards and parents.

I believe the LERC program is essential and should be funded at a level that will allow the same level of service we have come to value and appreciate.



July 9, 2020

Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Senator Betsy Johnson, Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chairs
Joint Ways and Means Committee
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: State Funding for Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI)

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner Hayward, Johnson, Rayfield and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI). Climate Solutions is a regional non-profit accelerating solutions to the climate crisis.

Sufficient state funding of this vital work is critical now more than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the value and dire need for strong, trusted scientific data and information to guide wise decision-making, especially in light of the current pandemic which further underscores the relationship between climate change and the spread of infectious diseases and public health impacts more broadly. One takeaway from this deadly pandemic is that listening to scientists and having the best science available leads to better public health outcomes than sidelining, underfunding, or ignoring science and data. That is *particularly true for climate science and the impacts that the climate crisis is bringing to bear on Oregon's people, communities, natural resources, economy and wild places now and in the future.*

Climate change is a threat multiplier, and harms public health in a myriad of ways - from rising temperatures leading to heat waves, drought, wildfires and months of smoke, to toxic algae blooms in drinking water and increased spread of infectious diseases. These devastating public health outcomes are projected to become more acute across Oregon, while disproportionately harming Native American tribes, Black, Latinx and other communities of color, lower-income households, rural communities, and other traditionally underrepresented communities.

This week, Governor Brown declared an emergency in seven rural counties, due to drought, reservoirs at historic lows and Bend warning of a water shortage.¹ More egregiously, the Warm Springs reservation has been largely without available and potable drinking water for weeks.² To have hardly any water, especially safe water, for thousands of people to drink, cook with, wash hands, and put out wildfires — during a global pandemic — is extreme injustice and racism in action. Predicting these droughts, their severity, and their impacts on communities' drinking water

¹ OPB, "As Drought Grips Oregon, A Water Warning In Bend," July 6, 2020:

<https://www.opb.org/news/article/bend-oregon-drought-water-warning/>

² OPB, "Water Crisis Returns To Warm Springs As Virus Cases Rise," June 30, 2020:

<https://www.opb.org/news/article/water-crisis-returns-to-warm-springs-as-virus-cases-rise/>

supplies is one of countless ways that Oregon-based climate science provided by OCCRI is invaluable and necessary now more than ever.

Since its inception in 2009, OCCRI's vision of achieving a climate-prepared Northwest has significantly helped the state and region with climate change adaptation planning, connecting science with decision making, and climate change research. In particular, we at Climate Solutions have seen the direct benefits of OCCRI using their scientific research to inform state climate policy and planning. The Annual Climate Assessment Report provides legislators, nonprofit organizations like mine, media, and all Oregonians with in depth knowledge about how climate change is impacting Oregon, our people and our natural resources now – and what is forecast for coming years and decades. These observations, facts and forecasts are critical for developing strategic adaptation plans for the climate impacts our state's people, places and economy are already feeling and are forecast to experience.

OCCRI's reports to the legislature also inform committees developing greenhouse gas reduction policies. For example, policymakers have the forecast of declining spring snowpack and its relation to dwindling water supply, drought and increased fire risk when making decisions about modernizing irrigation, interventions to reduce the impacts of drought and fire on our agriculture and forestry sectors, and combating the drivers of climate change. If OCCRI no longer existed, our work, and that of local governments and state policymakers, would suffer since we would have to speculate about the impacts that climate change is having locally, across our state and what to brace and plan for in future years, based on broad national or regional scientific analysis. We would be hampered because the scientific foundation for our policy work would not be based on Oregon-specific facts, realities and forecasts. Unfortunately, we cannot rely on the federal government to provide accurate climate information to Oregon.³ We need sound Oregon-based climate science and analysis we can rely on and trust as we grapple with this crisis rapidly unfolding.

In summary, the State's investment has been significantly leveraged to provide a broad range of unique and critical services and these are funds well spent. We urge the Ways and Means Committee and State Legislature to continue to support the vital work of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, especially in this time of the coronavirus pandemic where we are seeing firsthand the effects that the climate crisis can have compounding harm on frontline communities.

Sincerely,



Meredith Connolly
Oregon Director
Climate Solutions

³ New York Times, "A Trump Insider Embeds Climate Denial in Scientific Research," March 2, 2020: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/02/climate/goks-uncertainty-language-interior.html>; World Resources Institute, "7 Ways the Trump Administration Is Harming the Climate," April 21, 2020: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/04/7-ways-trump-administration-harming-climate>



July 23, 2020

To: Co-chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the Subcommittee on Education

Re: Outdoor School

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for Oregon's investment in Outdoor School for the state's 5th and 6th graders. My name is Dan Prince and I work with Friends of Outdoor School, a statewide organization committed to ensuring all 5th and 6th grade students can attend outdoor school.

We appreciate the significant support the Legislature and this committee in particular has shown for ensuring statewide student access to Outdoor School. Even before the Legislature enacted SB 439 and voters approved Measure 99, the positive outcomes of Outdoor School for students were well-known. Now, with a statewide Outdoor School program administered by OSU Extension, we have ongoing, thorough research into the academic and social benefits reaped by students through this experience. That research shows significant positive gains in Oregon Essential Skills, interest in learning, positive school behaviors, and problem solving and collaboration skills.

Just as with every aspect of life, COVID-19 had a significant impact on Outdoor School. Typically, about 60% of attendance at Outdoor School takes place in the spring season. The pandemic effectively cancelled 99% of that programming, resulting in about 25,000 students missing their scheduled Outdoor School. Approximately 14,000 of those students were 6th graders. We're pleased that in response to the present moment, providers, philanthropy, community based organizations and OSU Extension Service have worked hard to ensure that 6th graders that missed their opportunity for outdoor school will be able to attend as 7th graders, focused on maintenance of sites, enhancement of curriculum, providing parents and educators tools to deliver outdoor education through distance learning. Not only will outdoor school for Oregonians be stronger as a result of this crisis but we believe it will facilitate a culture and opportunity for outdoor education co-occurring with traditional and virtual education in the future.

We have brought together the outdoor school community to think deeply about Outdoor School programming for the 2020-2021 school year. First, there is a real opportunity for Outdoor School to support school district efforts by partnering to provide outdoor learning opportunities at or near the school grounds in a safe manner. Second, we have begun work with the Governor's office to attend to the unique needs for targeted guidance for Outdoor School operations when it is deemed safe for students to return.



We understand the difficult choices this committee and the Legislature must make as COVID-19 plagues the State's budget. I am appreciative of your commitment to protect education as much as possible. Outdoor School, like other programs, will see a reduction in budget – but you have the Outdoor School community's commitment to continue to deliver excellent outcomes for all Oregonian 5th and 6th graders.

Outdoor School is a cornerstone of Oregon's leadership legacy in connecting Oregon youth to the land. No other state does anything like this at this scale. It is a credit to Oregonians, Oregon's elected and policy leaders, and the creative and passionate work of Outdoor School providers. Thank you for your continued support of this important aspect of education in Oregon.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Prince", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Prince
Associate Director
Friends of Outdoor School



Western Oregon University Federation of Teachers

Local 2278, AFT, AFL-CIO

Western Oregon University, Monmouth, OR 97361

Representing WOU Faculty since 1974

Ways & Means Committee

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

July 23, 2020

Dear Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

Thank you, Co-Chairs Frederick & McLain and members of the committee, for inviting and enduring several hours of testimony. My name is Emily Plec, I am a Professor of Communication Studies at Western Oregon University and VP for Political Advocacy with WOUFT, our faculty union.

Gratitude. Relief. Hope. That is what I felt yesterday when I read the Co-Chairs rebalancing principles document. I'm grateful to you and to the committee for pursuing principles guided by the public good. Your efforts are critical for our public universities. It allows them to continue to serve students while adapting to the changing needs of our state's economy without pushing the cost of higher education further out of reach of Oregon students.

At WOU (which, as you know, educates so many of our state's teachers, law enforcement, health and social services professionals, in addition to producing business leaders and legislators), we serve a higher % of first-generation and working-class students than any other public University in the region. We are the only university in Oregon working to recruit and support students in foster care and we are striving to become the state's first Hispanic-serving public university. In this morning's testimony, you heard the story of a pregnant former foster youth named Karlee. We're the kind of school that changes the life trajectory of people like Karlee and the kids she's raising.

In order to continue to serve these students in the face of lost revenue, our university has already made devastating classified staff cuts – placing 60 people on Leave without Pay and requiring a 20% furlough of the rest. Our faculty have learned to transition their courses and practica online & our union even proposed a salary freeze in bargaining. WOU employees recognize that sacrifices are needed to keep higher education affordable for Oregonians but we need your help to minimize them. Our university Administration has made clear to us that cuts to higher education appropriations will result in the elimination of academic programs and faculty positions. Many of the customized learning experiences that have the greatest impact on students are already at risk.

The pandemic has created what we all expect will be short-term burdens for our state's public universities due to our dependence upon revenue from tuition, housing, and dining. And as you well know, Oregon ranks 39th in the nation in per capita funding for higher education so your efforts to prevent us from falling even further behind are critical.

In closing, I will simply ask that the legislature continue to prioritize higher education funding in budget conversations. If additional revenue becomes available, whether federal or state-based, any additional investments you can make in strengthening public institutions like WOU will have long-term payoffs for our whole state.

Thank you,
Emily Plec, WOUFT VP for Political Advocacy and Education
ejplec1@gmail.com; plece@wou.edu



July 1, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Members of the Committee
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Committee Members,

The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council (OSBCTC) is an umbrella organization comprised of 30 affiliates representing tens of thousands of skilled trades workers throughout the state of Oregon. Ensuring that workers employed in our industry are able to have access to good family-sustaining, middle class jobs through strong labor standards, state registered apprenticeships, and health and safety training are all part of our core values.

The University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center (LERC) shares our commitment in defending and supporting labor standards for all workers. The research that LERC provides on prevailing wage, worker safety, state registered apprenticeship, jobs in renewable energy industry, and pursuing racial and gender equality is essential to the work we do daily.

In March of 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic destructively drove us into uncharted territory, LERC responded swiftly, along with other industry stakeholders, to form a joint construction safety taskforce comprised of union and non-union labor, management, community, and government to help our industry stay safe, while remaining gainfully employed. LERC's research, data collection and overall contributions have proven to be invaluable for the COVID-19 Joint Construction Safety Task force, and Oregon families.

As we plan our recovery from this grim economic downturn it is recognized that tough budget decisions must be made. However, failing to adequately fund essential programs like LERC will simply make Oregonians more susceptible to worker mistreatment and set us further back. Many organizations have relied on LERC's research capabilities and expertise to help protect Oregon's

workforce. No other program in Oregon, especially within the higher education system, matches LERC's capability, experience, and track-record of addressing working class needs by adapting to existing and new challenges that face the workers of Oregon.

The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council is asking the Oregon Legislature Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education to keep the University of Oregon Labor Education and Research Center funded for the safety of all Oregonians.

Respectfully Yours,



Robert Camarillo
Executive Secretary

From:
To:
Subject: Support for Higher Ed Budget
Date: Monday, July 27, 2020 7:59:11 AM

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and Members of Committee:

I'm writing in support of the co-chairs budget framework for higher education. The proposed framework will protect students at Portland State University.

Over half of Portland State students are Pell-eligible and receive some form of financial aid, maintaining funding for the Oregon Opportunity Grant and the Public University Support Fund will make a big difference for students at Portland State.

I was the first in my family to attend University with the help of Federal and State aid. This help made it possible for me to get an engineering degree despite working full time with a family to support. I want others like me to have this same opportunity. I served for thirty years in the Federal Government making a significant contribution to the electrical system of the Pacific Northwest. Without this support, I would not have been able to attend PSU and reach my full potential.

I would respectfully ask that you support the co-chairs budget framework. This framework will support students, help build a diverse workforce, and assist in the growth of Oregon's economy. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Ruff
PSU Class of '82
Chair,
PSU Advocates,
PSU Alumni Association

Thank you for your support of Oregon's university students in your proposed budget framework. Maintaining funding for the Public University Support Fund and the Oregon Opportunity Grant will make a huge difference for students at Portland State University.

PSU has a large portion of it's student body who are minority and first in their families to

attend University. Your support makes it possible for these students to obtain a university degree and reach their full potential. I know because I was one of those students who got a degree in engineering at PSU and went on to have a high paying job with the Federal Government. None of this would have been possible without the help I received to go to PSU.



Co-Chairs Fredrick and McLain
Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
Jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov
Submitted electronically

Re: Testimony on Budget Considerations – HECC

Dear Co-Chairs Fredrick and McLain:

My name is Kathryn Moakley, and I am the Domestic Violence Civil Clinic Supervisor at the University of Oregon School of Law. In this position, I teach law students how to provide appropriate representation to survivors of domestic violence, with an emphasis on family law matters such as custody and divorce. I also provide direct representation to clients. HECC funds are a vital part of the support for the Domestic Violence Clinic, and our only source of non-competitive financial support.

As you work to revise the state budget in these difficult times, I ask that you keep in mind the value of the Clinic and other projects the HECC funds support. The Domestic Violence Clinic provides services to a wide variety of low-income clients facing many different types of oppression, from economic abuse to life-threatening physical abuse. They are seeking safety for themselves and their families. One of the realities of domestic violence is that the survivors are often left without financial means, which severely limits their access to legal resources. The Domestic Violence Clinic is the place they can turn to for help gaining the protection they need, from restraining orders to custody of their children to help addressing issues that are keeping them from successfully achieving stability.

The Domestic Violence Clinic's most important purpose is, of course, to teach students how to represent survivors of violence in their communities. The Clinic is often a student's first time working with real clients on real cases. The students bring an energy and passion to the work that is inspiring, and they end their time in the Clinic with a wealth of knowledge on how to help their clients seek and maintain their safety and stability. Students often report that their Clinic experiences are a highlight of their law school career. The HECC funds provide support for staff and general functioning of the Clinic, which helps ensure our attorneys and students are able to serve as many clients as possible.

These legal and educational services have never been more important, given the increased number of calls domestic violence resource centers have reported during the COVID-



PO Box 10486
Eugene, OR 97440
Phone: 541-346-8555 | Fax: 541-346-9166



19 crisis¹. With an enormous number of community members experiencing economic hardship, it is vital free legal services continue to be available.

As you consider the necessary adjustments to the budget in the fact of this crisis, I ask that you continue to support the Domestic Violence Clinic that is so important to the community and students. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Moakley
University of Oregon School of Law
Domestic Violence Civil Clinic Supervisor
moakley@uoregon.edu
541-346-9342

¹ See "Domestic Violence Reports Have Nearly Doubled Since Stay at Home Order Put in Place", KVAL, April 24, 2020. <https://kval.com/news/local/domestic-violence-reports-have-nearly-doubles-since-stay-at-home-order-was-put-into-place>



From:
To:
Subject: Testimony - School Funding
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:54:07 AM

Thank you for prioritizing the preservation of the Community College Support Fund and Public University Support Fund. We know that Legislators have difficult decisions to make and appreciate that you **prioritized students and faculty in your budget rebalance.**

Major revenue has already been lost by each of Oregon's community colleges and universities this year, from tuition due to temporary enrollment drop in the spring term and lost dining to housing and athletic revenue.

If any cuts that are made to the CCSF or PUSF this biennium would be devastating to students, faculty, and staff on our campus **not to mention our entire community and the benefits our community college brings.**

Southwestern Community College sits in small rural community that battles low wages and a high poverty rate. Many of our students are first generation college students. A robust community college will continue to aide our area like many other Oregon communities by encouraging an entrepreneurial spirit and economic growth, reduced income inequality, reduce violence, drug and child abuse and other social economic factors that come with lack of education . **Now is not the down to downsize, but to *enhance and grow* education. We must work harder to make education accessible and affordable for all!** We ask that the Legislature continue to prioritize higher education funding during budget conversations and if more money becomes available from the federal government fight for Oregon, especially the small communities who are the heart of our great state.

Sincerely,

Jessica Engelke MBA/HRM

Professor of Business Management and Entrepreneurship

AFT 3190

North Bend Oregon City Council



June 23, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Labor Education and Research Center (LERC.) United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) Local 555 has been associated with LERC for many, many years.

We have had them doing ongoing research on scheduling. They put together our Steward Training Program. We have had them come in and conduct staff trainings for us.

They are a very valuable asset to the Labor community and workers everywhere. We believe you should continue funding LERC.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dan Clay'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'C'.

President
UFCW Local 555

Dear Co-Chair Frederick and Co-Chair McLain and Members of the Education Subcommittee,

Please find attached letters of support for the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) that were submitted individually to jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov for the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means hearing that was originally scheduled for June 2020.

These 26 letters represent a broad diversity of people, including a rancher in eastern Oregon, a graduate student, soil and water conservation districts, the Chief of the Oregon Department of Forestry Fire Protection Division, federal agencies, local governments, other state groups, university faculty, non-governmental organizations, individual stakeholders, and consultants.

The Institute for Natural Resources plays a defining and critical role in the state by providing access to and delivering integrating centralized, science-based information that crosses multiple agency jurisdictions. The Institute also supports the critical partnerships that exist among the research community, INR technical experts, and natural resource practitioners; and gives Oregonians throughout the state a way to visualize Oregon through user-friendly online, geospatial platforms.

Our state faces numerous challenges in the coming years, from climate change stressors, such as drought and extreme wildfire, to those associated with meeting the needs and demands of water users in rural, urban, and coastal parts of our state. There has never been a more critical time in our state's history for this organization to be fully funded and supported.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lisa DeBruyckere, President



Creative Resource Strategies, LLC
6159 Rosemeadow Lane NE
Salem, OR 97317
Office (503) 371-5939 | Mobile (503) 704-2884
www.createstrat.com



June 15, 2020

RE: Letter in support of the Institute for Natural Resources Submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

My name is Lisa DeBruyckere, and I am President of Creative Resource Strategies, LLC, an Oregon certified woman-owned business that has been providing consulting services to natural resource organizations in the western states and Canada since 2002.

I am writing to you today to share my strong support for the role the Institute for Natural Resources plays in advancing science-based natural resource information for the state of Oregon.

My company (www.createstrat.com) has provided services to federal, state, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and tribal sovereign nations to advance science-based conservation that enhances the quality of life for all Oregonians. The Institute for Natural Resources has played a pivotal role advancing science and information on numerous important projects. For example:

- They manage *iMapInvasives*, the state's invasive species database, which tracks the existence and management of invasive species statewide. This tool has allowed land managers to share invasive species across jurisdictions, and has advanced the state's ability to manage invasive species in an adaptive management context. The *iMapInvasives* database was integral to the success of many initiatives of the Oregon Invasive Species Council during my 7-year tenure as their contract coordinator.
- INR administers the Historical Vegetation Mapping Project, which allows land managers to understand the composition of past landscapes to better understand our changing ecosystems. This project has been integral to a variety of projects I have worked on with natural resource partners.

- INR administers the Integrated Landscape Management Project, which creates science and knowledge delivery modules to advanced understanding of watershed-level prioritization of fuel treatments, integral to addressing stressors associated with climate change, such as water supply and drought conditions. Integrating economics with science in a systematic way allows land managers to operate using an optimized decision support system, which results in better, timely, strategic management decisions.

INR has worked on many other projects and databases other than the three I have listed above. Their staff are helpful and knowledgeable, and are highly regarded among the western states and provinces.

I strongly encourage you to support continued funding of the Institute for Natural Resources to ensure that sound science is available to inform the challenging management issues land management and agencies face, particularly in light of emerging climate change stressors and other threats to Oregon.

Thank you for your continued service to the citizens of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa A. DeBruyckere". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "L" and "D".

Lisa A. DeBruyckere, President
Creative Resource Strategies, LLC 6159
Rosemeadow Lane NE Salem, OR 97317
(503) 371-5939; cell (503) 704-2884

www.createstrat.com

lisad@createstrat.com

Letter in support of the Institute for Natural Resources

Submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Co-Chairs Fredrick and McLain

My name is John O’Keeffe, I ranch with my family in Adel, Oregon. Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). For the last 20 or so years I have been heavily involved in the effort to conserve the Greater Sage Grouse and prevent a listing of that species under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

A large part of the decision by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2015 to not to list Greater Sage Grouse was based on the plans submitted by the various states to conserve the species. Oregon stood out as one of the leaders in this planning process.

The group charged with overseeing the implementation of Oregon’s plan, the Sage-Con Co-ordinating Council, is made up of the heads of the various state and federal agencies that manage the land, resources, and programs that affect the Sage Brush Biome, I am the private landowner representative on the council.

This council relies heavily on technical products shaped by the INR. Raw data is not useful, analyzed data and modeling based on data is useful, this among other things, is what INR does for the council.

The current biennium budget for INR is \$215981, this leverages \$2,339,142 in grant monies, this is a very cost-effective program that will be very difficult to reproduce if continuity is lost. Also uninterrupted service is crucial to the Sage Con effort if we are to continue to move Sage Grouse conservation forward and stay ahead of a listing of the Greater Sage Grouse.

This is an effort that includes many partners, BLM, USFWL Service, NRCS, ODFW, SWCD, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, conservation community represented by Intermountain West Joint Venture, private landowners and others, it is important to continue to support this effort and keep the Institute for Natural Resources at the table.

Thank you for past support and continued support into the future, I would be happy to answer any questions, feel free to contact me.

John O’Keeffe
541-219-1111
johnhok@hotmail.com



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry
State Forester's Office
2600 State St.
Salem, OR, 97310
503-945-7200
www.oregon.gov/ODF

June 17, 2020

Sen. Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Rep. Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE, H-178
Salem, OR, 97301

Re: Support for OSU Institute for Natural Resources and Oregon Explorer

Dear Co-Chairs,

The Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources (INR) and the Oregon Explorer program are essential services that help the Oregon Department of Forestry and the research community conduct natural resource education and outreach. We have partnered with INR for many years to help deliver wildfire risk data and other natural resource educational resources to Oregonians through tools like the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer.

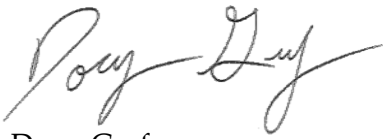
Over the past four years, in partnership with the Washington office of the U.S. Forest Service, ODF and INR updated the Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer with the most current wildfire risk assessment available for the Pacific Northwest (Washington and Oregon) – the *2018 PNW Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment*. INR developed the mapping interface, data download capability, links to relevant research, and custom interpretive and summary reports for homeowners, community groups, and county and state emergency planning personnel.

The interpretive summary report from the Explorer support planning efforts in county offices that do not have sophisticated mapping or wildfire risk interpretation capabilities. Thanks to INR's work, data and summary reports can be localized and placed directly into county and state Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Natural Hazard Mitigation Plans. The interpretive summary report for homeowners provides an estimate of their property's wildfire risk and provides valuable information about wildfire in their local area. The report also provides homeowners with a guide for creating fire-safe landscapes around their homes and community, including contact information for their local fire officials for more information and support.

Wildfire risk assessments are updated every several years as fire occurrence, vegetation, and weather conditions change. We intend to continue working with INR to update the Oregon

Wildfire Risk Explorer as new risk assessment data become available. Continued funding of both INR and the Oregon Explorer will help improve the life, health, and safety of Oregonians by supporting the critical partnership between the research community and fire management and analysis practitioners in the region. The work we do with INR allows for the delivery of the most current science in an accessible, user-specific format that helps homeowners and communities protect themselves and supports county and state decision-making and risk mitigation planning around wildfire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Grafe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Grafe

Chief, Fire Protection Division



**Oregon State
University**

**Geography and Geospatial Science
College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences**
Oregon State University
104 CEOAS Administration Building
Corvallis, Oregon 97331
541-737-3504 www.ccoas.oregonstate.edu

6/15/20

**Letter in support of the Institute for Natural Resources
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education**

Co-chairs Frederick and McLain,

I am writing to you in support of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). INR, its staff, services, and products are a cornerstone of natural resource management in Oregon. It is essential that its core activities and services continue to be financially supported by the state of Oregon.

My name is Dr. Michael Harte and I am a Professor in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University in Corvallis. I am an economist and physical geographer by training. As well as working in academia, I have worked around the world for primary industry, environmental non-governmental organizations and also as a senior manager in government agencies. I have worked with INR for 15 years on outreach, research and educational initiatives and have found their assistance, productivity, quality and value to be unparalleled. In 2017, I participated as a member of an external team reviewing INR's performance over the prior decade.

I and many others throughout the State and USA are impressed by the breadth and depth of expertise, contributions to science and policy, public engagement, education, and leadership in regional natural resource and water issues demonstrated by INR. Stakeholders regularly laud INR's responsiveness, professionalism, and product quality—contracts were completed on time and on budget—and there is a broad perception of unbiased, high-value or value-added products produced by INR.

INR provides a critical links between Oregon's public universities, state agencies, industry and natural resource stakeholders. It currently supports a network of 30 researchers and early career scientists across a range of institutions and agencies. It has supported 100s more over its existence. Its closure, because of defunding, with the loss of this expertise from Oregon, would be a tragedy for the state. State funding, albeit reduced in these fiscal circumstances, will still be spent on obtaining natural resources-related services and products. If INR ceases to operate there is huge risk to Oregon's environment, state agencies and stakeholders from biased, lower quality and poor value scientific and technical products and services.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Michael Harte (PhD)
Professor
Geography and Geospatial Science
College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
Oregon State University

From: Vincent Adams <vadams@osba.org>

Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2020 2:26 PM

To: jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov <jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>

Cc: Salwasser, Janine <janine.salwasser@oregonstate.edu>

Subject: Oregon Explorer/Institute for Natural Resources

Dear Committee Members,

In April I transitioned to my current position with OSBA, but prior to that I served Oregon as the director of the Rural Communities Explorer (RCE) at Oregon State University. The RCE is one of the content providers for the Oregon Explorer (OE), an online digital repository for natural resource information about our great state and one of the important programs under the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). The RCE was launched in 2007 in partnership with the OSU Extension Service and has since become an indispensable resource for demographic, social, and economic information about Oregon's places and counties. Leaders across the state use the RCE for needs assessment, progress tracking, and data-informed decision making. The program's information is accessed in two primary ways: The **Communities Reporter Tool** online database and the **Oregon by the Numbers** report, published in collaboration with the Ford Family Foundation.

The [Communities Reporter Tool](#) allows anyone in the world to access over 600 individual indicators about communities in Oregon. The data are collected from over 30 sources, from federal and state agencies to nonprofit partners. The information is stored in Oregon Explorer digital infrastructure at the OSU Valley Library and is accessed in an easy-to-use web interface that allows people to search for information by place name. OSU Extension provides content and outreach expertise for the program, but development and maintenance of the digital infrastructure is solely reliant on the Oregon Explorer team at OSU, with support from INR. The delivery of this information from such an array of sources, and in this convenient way, with data displayed both numerically and spatially, is unparalleled in online community data resources and is free for every person in Oregon. Without the collaboration of the Oregon Explorer and INR, the Rural Communities Explorer program could not exist.

In 2017, the Rural Communities Explorer team partnered with the Ford Institute for Community Building, to publish a printed indicator report for the state that assembles a suite of community measures and displays them in an easy-to-digest format including charts and infographics. [Oregon by the Numbers](#) was the result of that work. It features compact county portraits for all 36 Oregon counties as well as corresponding measure profiles, with rankings whenever possible. In 2018, printed copies of Oregon by the Numbers were distributed to every county commissioner and legislator in the state, and it is likely that members of this committee have the report on their desk. Nearly every indicator in the report can be accessed on the Communities Reporter Tool database, and these two resources are explicitly intended to be used together to provide decision makers a more complete view of the communities and state they serve. The 2019 edition of the report is available in a digital version, and the 2020 report is currently in production and will be available in print.

Every good leader knows that in times of fiscal constraint the competition between priorities is heightened. The work of the Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon Explorer, and the Rural Communities Explorer are aimed at ensuring that those with the burden of making choice between priorities have the best information at hand. These programs provide much needed situational awareness and the ability to use empirical information to understand the economic and demographic dynamics of Oregon, its counties, and communities. Without such information, decision makers can

become adrift and unable to establish robust priorities based evidence and sound values. Without these things, how can we expect Oregon’s leaders to effectively navigate the current crisis and the recession it has caused? For the good of all Oregonians, I strongly urge continued service level support for the Institute for Natural Resources so that our state and community leaders can rest assured that they will have quality information at their fingertips as they plan for a brighter day in Oregon.

Warm regards,

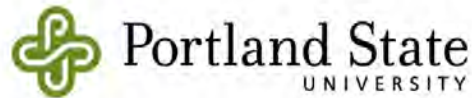
Vincent Adams, MPP | [he-him-his](#)

Board Development Specialist

Oregon School Boards Association

e. vadams@osba.org | c. 541.240.4055





Christopher A. Sirakowski
6322 5th Ave. NE
Seattle, Washington
98115
sirakowski@gmail.com

Letter in support of the Institute for Natural Resources

Submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

June 16th, 2020

Dear committee members,

I write to you in support of the Institute for Natural Resources. It is important for our work that INR, and its staff, services, and products continue to be supported by the State of Oregon.

Eight years ago, I moved to the Pacific Northwest from Texas, and I found myself immediately in awe of the natural beauty of this region of our country. After living in Portland for a couple years I was inspired to return to school to pursue an education that would help me preserve the natural beauty of Oregon, its neighboring states, and any other areas of the world that face anthropogenic dangers. I needed the knowledge found in higher education to have my voice heard and to be relevant; I attended Portland State University where I completed my bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in geographic information systems (GIS).

I was introduced to the Institute for Natural Resources by my adviser in the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) in February of 2019. LSAMP is a STEM program which guides first-generation, non-traditional, minority students, like me, in the ways of academia and showing us how to overcome hurdles we may encounter. My adviser's goal was to bridge the gap between the undergraduate student's educational experience and the graduate/career world by having us meet with a professional in our trajectory field; in my case that professional was Dr. David S. Green, a faculty member at INR. Prior to this meetup I had the privilege to attend Dr. Green's talk at PSU's weekly biology seminar; he spoke to us about his role as a conservation biologist at a Kenyan wildlife preserve and his ecological work with hyenas. His studies resonated with me and other students who attended this talk due to our shared interests. Three of us

were fortunate enough to sit down and speak with Dr. Green and ask all the questions that could not be answered after his seminar presentation. He informed us of his current research with INR and his work with fishers (*Pekania pennanti*) and other mesocarnivores. At the end of this insightful exchange, he extended an invitation to the three of us to join the effort; a week later I emailed Dr. Green and expressed my interest in working with INR. Since my initial meeting with Dr. Green, I have seen other undergraduate students, the majority being women and members of various minority communities, benefit from the work experience and mentorship found at INR; they understand the importance of diversity in sustainability and conservation work.

During my final year in university I continued volunteering at INR while finishing strongly in my studies at PSU. My time spent with INR was further supplemented by learning about the various projects the staff contributed to and their integral roles that they play. Listening to these faculty members collaborating in the office helped me to understand the importance of their connections with each other and their partnerships with other agencies that are necessary in the conservation effort. My experience at INR, which involved collecting and recording data, had also afforded me the opportunity to create an independent research project looking at small mammal occupancy in southern Oregon and northern California; with my work at INR I was able to proudly present my research at the 66th Annual Meeting of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society down in Yosemite, CA in February, 2019. I spoke to professionals in my field and learned about the many opportunities for future studies and career paths. Attending that conference was highly impactful and motivational in maintaining the momentum to continue and pursue a graduate degree. After graduation I worked my first wildlife field season with INR, completing a fully rounded research experience.

As a student pursuing a career in conservation work, I feel it is paramount to preserve programs such as INR. Not only do they devote their time and passion to their work, but they are able to communicate the science and the importance of their work to preserve a future for generations to come. I know that I will confidently continue this path conducting critical ecological research due to the mentorship that I received and my experiences at INR.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Sirakowski



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education and Economics
Agricultural Research Service

June 20, 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am Research Leader for the Agricultural Research Service in Burns, Oregon. I have had the opportunity to work with staff from Oregon State University's Institute for Natural Resources (INR) on a variety of projects over a number of years and wanted to offer some thoughts for your consideration.

The mission of our research location is about producing the science that underpins and guides management decisions on Oregon rangelands. That said, science done in a vacuum has no value to the larger Society and as such our staff makes considerable effort to place that science into the hands of managers and decision-makers. That effort benefits greatly from an incredible cadre of conservation partners who provide the infrastructure necessary for assembling relevant stakeholders and promote an environment of shared science that benefits both the resource, as well as those for who value Oregon's rangelands for livelihood, recreation, and solace.

INR has played a defining and critical role in creating that infrastructure. For example, INR has a lead role in coordinating the efforts of the SageCon Partnership; a collection of relevant stakeholders responsible for developing policy and stewardship initiatives for Oregon rangeland. This group has created a state-wide invasive annual grass initiative aimed at taking on what is probably the biggest rangeland management challenge in the history of the western US. Members of this group also put together ecologically-based sage-grouse management plans that are impacting millions of acres of Oregon rangeland, are broadly accepted by diverse stakeholder groups, and are now being exported for use in other states. INR has also played a leadership role in helping develop forward-thinking rangeland monitoring initiatives that harness the power of emerging geo-spatial technologies as tempered by best available rangeland science. Lastly, the capacity of INR to facilitate collaborative management planning on often socially-divisive rangeland management issues is having generational-level impact on how we view the role of stakeholders and society in general in proactive management of rangeland resources.

The most amazing aspect of INR?...they do all of the above on a budget that is over 90% internally-generated soft funds. Simply put, INR represents an unbelievably cost-effective investment in the future of Oregon rangelands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad S. Boyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue circular stamp that is partially obscured.

Dr. Chad S. Boyd



Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center

67826-A Hwy. 205 • Burns, OR 97720
Voice: 541.573.8939 • Fax: 541.573.3042 • E-mail: chad.boyd@usda.gov

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Portland, OR 97232-2736
oregonmetro.gov

June 16th, 2020

Honorable Senator Lew Frederick, Education Subcommittee Co-Chair
Honorable Representative Susan McClain, Education Subcommittee Co-Chair
Oregon State Legislature, Joint Interim Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

I write to you in support of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). It is important for all of Oregon that INR, via its staff, services, and products, continues to be supported by the State of Oregon.

I am the current Chair of the Oregon Geographic Information Council (OGIC). The legislature formed OGIC and charged it with promoting geospatial data sharing across all Oregon public bodies. Since 2000, the Council has worked closely with the Institute for Natural Resources to ensure that geospatial Framework data in the public domain is accessible to both the public and to all government agencies State-wide so they can achieve their missions for all Oregonians.

The Institute for Natural Resources maintains and administers the Oregon Spatial Data Library, a public facing web portal for geospatial data. That Library receives over 150 million hits annually. The Library is a vital part of the mission of the Oregon Geographic Information Council, as specified in ORS 276A.506. Furthermore, the Spatial Data Library is a vital component of the ongoing COVID-19 response work being performed by Oregon Emergency Management and the Oregon Health Authority. Support for this global emergency and all other emergencies, large and small, is a critical reason we all need INR and the Oregon Spatial Data Library to continue. As such, the Council very strongly supports the Institute receiving the funding it needs to continue its work.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Frkonja".

Jeff Frkonja
Metro Research Center Director
Chair, Oregon Geographic Information Council



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office
2600 SE 98th Avenue, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97266
Phone: (503) 231-6179 FAX: (503) 231-6195

File Name: INR_testimony_6_16_2020.docx
TS Number:
Doc Type: Final

Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

June 16th, 2020

Subject: Letter of Support for the Institute for Natural Resources submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

I write to you in support of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). It is important for our conservation work throughout Oregon that INR and its staff, services, and products continue to be supported by the State of Oregon. In particular, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and our partners engaged in conservation of greater sage-grouse rely heavily on the essential work conducted by INR, including state-of-the-art geospatial products, information management, and project management. INR's staff are foundational to SageCon, the stakeholder sage-grouse conservation organization, chaired by the Governor's Natural Resource Office, which is leading the implementation of sage-grouse conservation across nearly a third of the state. SageCon's overarching goal is to advance policies and actions that reduce threats to sage-grouse and Oregon's sagebrush ecosystem, as well as promote rural community and economic health, according to the goals, approaches, and strategies adopted in the state's Sage-Grouse Action Plan. INR's products and staff working in the sage are integrated with no less than eight counties, dozens of diverse stakeholders, and hundreds of private landowners who are stepping up to deliver meaningful conservation for this species and its habitat.

Our interactions with INR have been exceptional, with researchers and project leaders willing to provide assistance in a thorough and timely manner. We support the ongoing work of INR and look forward to incorporating new and innovative products as they become available. Based on nearly 10 years of working with INR and the use of their products, we strongly support their

**INTERIOR REGION 9
COLUMBIA-PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

IDAHO, MONTANA*, OREGON*, WASHINGTON

*PARTIAL

continued funding from the State of Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical part of Oregon's conservation stewardship. If you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance, please contact Jeff Everett of my staff at (503) 231-6179.

Sincerely,

Paul Henson

Paul Henson, Ph.D.
State Supervisor

Citation:

Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership. 2015. The Oregon Sage-grouse Action Plan. Salem, Oregon. USA.

June 18, 2020

Written testimony in support of the Institute for Natural Resources

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on
Ways & Means:

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) is a coordinating group of state and public agencies, tribes, scientists, land managers, industry leaders, educators, and members of the public who lead the effort to protect Oregon from invasive species. Our mission is to protect Oregon's natural resources and economy by planning and leading a coordinated and comprehensive effort. **Our mission requires collaborative, cross-agency participation including educational institutions that implement important invasive species prevention and early detection programs for the state.** Invasive species have direct impacts on our food and water systems and infrastructure. They also can pose serious threats to many different economic sectors such as trade, forestry, agriculture, water resources, outdoor recreation, and tourism, to name a few.

On behalf of the OISC, I am writing to express strong support for the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). The INR provides direct support for the [Oregon Invasive Species Online Hotline](#) by collecting data on invasive species sightings and coordinating follow-up by experts. **The actions implemented by the INR address key Early Detection & Rapid Response strategies**, as outlined in [Oregon's Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species](#). INR works diligently to maintain the state's online reporting system, support invasive species practitioners across Oregon, and coordinate invasive species and conservation information nationally. **Without the INR playing this role in Oregon's collaborative invasive species prevention network, the state of Oregon will become even more vulnerable to the unrelenting threat that invasive species pose to our natural resources and economy.**

After prevention, early detection is our next line of defense against the establishment of invasive species. **Importantly, management of invasive species is not only most effective but also orders of magnitude less**



expensive when invasions are prevented or detected early and action plans immediately implemented. Therefore, it is important to Oregon's natural resources and fiscally wise to develop and maintain programs for pest and weed detection by both agency experts and by community members. INR's system enables the input from community members and thus is a vital part of detection and rapid response.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Catherine E de Rivera

*Catherine de Rivera, 2020 Chair
Oregon Invasive Species Council*

From: **mark porter** <mark.mcp123@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jun 16, 2020 at 8:44 AM

Subject: OSU Institute for Natural Resources

To: <jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>

Education SubCommittee of the Joint Ways and Means -

I thank you for your time and leadership in this most difficult of times. I know that you are currently faced with some of the most challenging decisions in recent memory. I wish you the best of wisdom as you move through these budget processes.

I would like to speak to the value of Oregon State University's Institute for Natural Resources (INR) in hopes that it will survive these hard times intact. INR provides leadership and technical expertise on some of the most challenging resource issues that our state faces. While their list of work is long and broad in scope my experience with them is through their work on Invasive Annual Grasses in Eastern Oregon. INR has had a huge impact on Eastern Oregon's Rural communities by playing a critical role in coordinating the SAGECON effort for more than a decade. SAGECON has brought ranchers and environmentalists together to make real changes in policies and practices that makes conservation of the Greater Sage Grouse in Oregon possible.

Not only do they coordinate this effort professionally and effectively, but they also provide cutting edge technical knowledge of mapping and satellite imagery tools that are key to the landscape scale efforts needed to make a real difference on the ground. Further, their work with Imap Invasives is extremely important to our understanding and management of noxious weeds and invasive plants.

Please work to keep this institute intact. Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Porter

Invasive Plant Manager for 20 years in Eastern Oregon

File Code: 1900; 2020
Date: June 16, 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Susan McLain
Education Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Ways and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-chairs Frederick and McLain:

This letter is in support of the Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources (INR). The Southwestern Region of the USDA Forest Service has been working in partnership with INR for over a decade. The origin of the partnership was the Regions need for ecological data and analysis tools for use in Forest Plan assessments across Arizona and New Mexico. The availability of the information resources from the INR Integrated Landscape Assessment Project. Over the years the Southwestern Region has utilized INR data and experts to help create a multi-state vegetation map across all ownerships, along with vegetation models for forecasting future conditions in all ecosystems in the Region. This has been a highly successful collaborative effort which supported the successful completion of Forest Plan assessments on 11 National Forests in the Region, and six completed Forest Plan revisions. The Forest Plans established the Agency's management goals for the next 15+ years, and across 21 million acres of land in Arizona and New Mexico. The science that INR's staff has provided to this effort has been both foundational and critical.

More recently, the INR has been engaged by the Region to help analyze ecological information for large landscape restoration projects. The INR provided an ecological data analysis for the recently released South Sacramento Restoration Project (SSRP) Draft Environmental Impact Statement, a high profile and important project covering a half a million acres of beetle infested forest on the Lincoln National Forest. The INR took approximately three months to accomplish an ecological analysis, that is less than a third of what it would have cost. With their support, it reduced the timeframe significantly. The INR also produced an updated vegetation coverage for the entire Region and again, at low cost and in a timely manner. Current projects that will utilize INR's support are the Santa Fe National Forest Landscape Resiliency and Fireshed projects that are designed to reduce fire risk in the Santa Fe municipal watershed and surrounding areas. In late 2019, the INR partnered with the Coronado National Forest on the Pinaleño FireScope large landscape restoration project. As part of this project, the INR analysts developed a process to update vegetation model inputs to reflect disturbance. This process can be applied widely and means that initial conditions modeling data can match current conditions very closely. A collaboration between INR, the Regional office, and the Pinaleño Interdisciplinary Team is developing a method to identify the extent and proportion of invasive species in semi-desert grassland ecosystems. The Pinaleño Project will be used as a template to develop documentation



and training materials for forest ID teams throughout the Region to do vegetation management modeling at large scales.

The INR sees great potential to support Shared Stewardship projects under the Good Neighbor Authority of the Farm Bill. The State-wide data that was co-produced with INR provided the foundation for the recent New Mexico Forest Action Plan. To that end, the Southwestern Region is joining the Pacific Northwest Region and the Intermountain Region. In an agreement, this will fund the INR to continue to deliver the unique expertise and capacity they can provide to plan, analyze, accomplish, and monitor large landscape restoration projects throughout the Western United States. For more information please contact Jennifer Ruyle, Deputy Director of Watershed and Planning, USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region, (505) 377-3145.

Sincerely,

SANDRA WATTS
Acting Regional Forester

cc: Wendy Jo Haskins, Jennifer Ruyle, Mark Jacobsen

June 16, 2020

To: Interim Ways and Means Committee, Subcommittee on Education

Re: Support Funding for the Institute for Natural Resources

My name is Charles Bruce. I am a mostly retired wildlife biologist after working at the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife for 37 years. During my career I was a lead biologist for the state working on identifying the status of hundreds of wildlife species and contributing to conservation programs.

Through most of my career, starting in the late 1970's, I and ODFW worked closely with what was originally called the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, now Institute for Natural Resources (INR). Field data collected by both state and federal resource agencies went into the statewide plant and animal data system known now as the Oregon Biodiversity Information System (ORBIC). The State now, through ORBIC at Portland State University (PSU), has a top of the line data system on Oregon's plant and animal communities available as a one stop source for all levels of public and private land use planning and management. Through the INRs program we have been able to clearly identify and prioritize plant and animal species and communities in need of protection and recovery such that we can prevent ending up dealing with yet another spotted owl or endangered Willamette River salmon. I am currently working with a number of other biologists on a state database on peregrine falcon nesting areas compiling 40 years of information on a once listed and now recovered species. This information will be housed in the INR data system at PSU and available for future protection as needed.

Oregon has done a fairly good job in identifying and tracking much of the biodiversity we live in and depend upon. That said, we are part of the world and in deep trouble that requires our continued attention and resolution to turn things around. Yesterday, Monday, an article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences informed us yet again that the extinction rate of terrestrial species is significantly higher than previous estimates with mass losses of up to 500 species going extinct over the next two decades without immediate attention. Climate change will only speed up that process both here and around the world.

Oregon has to stay in the game so to speak as our lives and economy depends on a healthy environment that maintains the biodiversity that we are a part of. I realize the tough funding situation we are all in and will likely be in for some time. However, we must look to the future regardless and the INR is an essential institution keeping track of the health of Oregon's priceless natural resources.

Regards,

Charlie Bruce
1625 NW 17th. St.
Corvallis, OR. 97330
541-760-8773



HEADQUARTERS

June 24, 2020

Susan McLain
Lew Frederick

Letter in support of the Institute for Natural Resources, Submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

Dear Ms. McLain and Mr. Frederick,

I am writing to express Pheasants Forever Inc. support for funding the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). Pheasants Forever is a non-profit organization that represents over 2,500 members in Oregon working with partners to improve natural resources and more specifically wildlife habitat for future generations or Oregon's public. Pheasants Forever support science-based decision making for all natural resource management actions and policy decisions. To that end, the Institute for Natural Resources provides critical science based tools and information to natural resource agencies that manage wildlife habitats and populations helping ensure the best available information is used when making decisions that can affect wildlife and other natural resources.

An example of this work is the Oregon Sage-grouse Local Implementation Teams (LITs). These LITs are locally driven collaborative working groups convened by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) that include agriculture producers, federal agencies, state agencies, and NGO partners. Five LITs were formed in 2005 across central and eastern Oregon when ODFW published its long-term plan for sage-grouse conservation and management (Oregon Conservation Assessment and Strategy or The Strategy, revised 2011). In 2015, The Strategy was made more robust by Governor Kate Brown's adoption of the Oregon Sage-grouse State Action Plan (The Action Plan), in which members of the SageCon partnership outlined more than 300 actions to implement with the intention to address all threats to sage-grouse in Oregon, thus avoiding an ESA listing designation for the species. Through INR, the LITs have direct and immediate access to technical experts and high-quality landscape planning tools. The resources provided by INR to the LITs have proven to be invaluable. The following examples list only a handful of reasons why, without INR, the LITs will not function efficiently,

- 1) INR staff was instrumental in developing The Action Plan – without that plan, the LITs would not have the framework within which to develop goals and objectives to address threats to sage-grouse, thus potentially fast tracking the species to an Endangered ESA status
- 2) Landscape planning tools specific to various threats to sage-grouse in Oregon were developed through INR, those modeling programs are now being utilized by the LITs to develop action plans

NATIONAL

1783 Buerkle Circle
St. Paul, Minnesota 55110
(651) 773-2000
(651) 773-5500 FAX

across jurisdictional boundaries in ways that will ensure high quality conservation, simultaneously allowing members to collaborate in ways that save time, resources, and money over the long-term.

3) The tools developed through INR provide a scientific foundation on which the LITs develop their strategies. Without those data driven resources, the conservation impacts of the LIT actions may not be as high quality or long-lasting.

4) Staff within INR are resources for the LITs. Coordination efforts between INR and the LIT Coordinator has resulted in the development of new landscape planning tools based on the needs of the LITs.

5) The partnership between INR and the LITs is fundamental to the long-term existence of sage-grouse in Oregon and without INR, sage-grouse across the west could be in jeopardy of extinction.

In closing, Pheasants Forever supports for the Institute for Natural Resources due to the considerable benefits they generate that support science based decision making for wildlife and all natural resources in Oregon.

Sincerely,
PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Eiden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Al Eiden
West Region Director
Pheasants Forever/ Quail Forever

NatureServe

June 17, 2020

To: Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means

We write to you today on behalf of NatureServe, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting endangered and at-risk species and ecosystems. In the US, NatureServe works with 54 Network program partners to collect, analyze, and deploy data on known and likely locations of at-risk species to promote conservation of biodiversity. Our data are used to assist land managers and other decision-makers in complying with state regulations, federal law, such as the Endangered Species Act, navigating site permitting processes, identifying areas for conservation, and more.

In Oregon, our Network partner, the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (OBIC), is located within the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) at Portland State University, and plays a pivotal role in advancing centralized, science-based natural resource information for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. INR is a vital part of the NatureServe Network, and makes decision-quality natural resources information available to private individuals and organizations as well as state and federal partners. They provide technical expertise to the government of Oregon on a wide array of natural resource issues, including conservation status of plants and animals, threatened and endangered species, invasive species, wetlands and aquatic resources, remote sensing, and predictive modeling. There is no other entity in Oregon that provides a similar breadth of natural resource information. INR provides services to state agencies that they would have to otherwise provide themselves at a higher cost. On behalf of the nationwide NatureServe Network, we strongly urge you to continue support for INR to ensure that sound scientific information is available to inform resource management.

Without our Network partner at INR, Oregon and the nation lose a link to the very much needed data on threatened species. NatureServe works closely with the forestry industry, the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish & Wildlife Service, and more in ensuring that biodiversity is conserved in an efficient and effective manner with the best data possible.

We would be happy to discuss NatureServe and the crucial role the INR plays in our mission. You can reach us at the contact information below.

Thank you for your time.



Sean T. O'Brien
President & CEO
sean_obrien@natureserve.org



Allison Gratz
Director of Network Relations
Allison_gratz@natureserve.org

Sent via email: jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov
CC: lisa.gaines@oregonstate.edu



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Forest Resources Division

1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-7016

360-902-01755

JOSHUA.HALOFISKY@DNR.WA.GOV
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the privilege of collaborating with the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) for nearly a decade. As an individual working in an agency with limited time to complete all projects, it has been a comfort knowing DNR can work with the thoughtful and intelligent individuals at INR. For example, INR has been crucial in analyzing restoration targets as part of DNR's all lands 20-year Forest Health Strategy. I personally feel better when we work with INR because I trust INR employees will meet deadlines to help ensure larger DNR projects are completed on time to inform internal management and policy decisions. In short, INR always delivers. Our agency success would be hampered without INR.

Dr. Joshua Halofsky
Natural Resource Scientist



TESTIMONY REGARDING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE INSTITUTE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES:

JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

June 17, 2020

MEMBERS

Co-Chair Senator Lew Frederick
Co-Chair Representative Susan McLain
Member Senator Arnie Roblan
Member Senator Chuck Thomsen

Member Representative Teresa Alonso Leon
Member Representative Mark Meek
Member Representative Mike Nearman
Member Representative Carl Wilson

Distinguished Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain,

The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District welcomes the opportunity to provide written testimony in regard to ongoing appropriations to the *Institute for Natural Resources*. The services and products provided by the *Institute for Natural Resources* serve a vital role in supporting the conservation efforts of our district and others across the state.

As an organization that works directly on conservation related issues in Clackamas County, we are familiar with the need to manage these issues at the landscape and regional scale. The *Institute for Natural Resources* serves an important and unique role within the state by managing sensitive data pertaining to rare, threatened, and endangered species. The services provided by the *Institute for Natural Resources* help ensure that our organization complies with state and federal laws and regulations related to these sensitive species, and allow us to be more thoughtful and strategic in our local conservation efforts.

The *Institute for Natural Resources* also maintains an important statewide infrastructure for reporting and curating observations of important invasive species through the *Oregon Invasive Species Hotline* and *Oregon iMapInvasives* data platform. The Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District relies heavily upon this data to help prioritize our invasive weed management efforts across Clackamas County. The services provided by the *Institute for Natural Resources* has allowed our district to be much more effective in our work and more efficient in the use of our local tax dollars.

In light of the significant financial impacts of COVID-19, the economic benefit realized by the efforts of the *Institute for Natural Resources* are cannot be understated. Invasive species threaten the livability of our communities and adversely impact our social, economic, and natural resources. One study entitled the *Economic Impact from*

Selected Noxious Weeds in Oregon looked at just 25 of our 128 designated noxious weeds and found that these 25 species alone cost Oregonians “\$83.5 million in personal income to the State’s economy” per year¹. Without active management these losses are predicted to rise to **1.8 billion annually**. The ongoing work of the *Institute for Natural Resources* is vital to mitigating these adverse impacts.

Invasive species impact the livability of our communities. Many invasive species pose a threat to human health and property. Some invasive species like giant hogweed are known to cause severe burns and possibly blindness to people. Other invasives plants are known to be poisonous and threaten pets, livestock, and wildlife. Invasive pests like sudden oak death or spotted-wing drosophila threaten entire industries. These invasive species degrade the quality of life we Oregonians enjoy and alter the way we interact with our surroundings.

Oregon’s wild lands and natural areas are also adversely impacted by invasive species. Invasive species displace our native plants and animals, degrade the quality of our natural resources, and result in a landscape that is less Oregon-like. This disruption of our local ecology leads to the continued degradation of our natural systems and the viability of our tourism-based economy. Oregon’s natural areas generate millions of dollars of revenue from tourism each year and is a vital component influencing the livability of our communities.

The *Institute for Natural Resources* serves a vital role to land managers across Oregon. The services provided by the *Institute for Natural Resources* have proven to be an invaluable resource that empowers local entities like the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. The loss or reduction of financial support to the *Institute for Natural Resources* would adversely impact our district and others across the state. Ongoing support of the *Institute for Natural Resources* will continue to improve the coordination of invasive species management and help to protect Oregon’s natural resources.

We sincerely thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on an issue of such importance to Oregonians.

Respectfully,



Lisa Kilders,

Acting General Manager



Samuel Leininger

WeedWise Program Manager

¹ The Research Group, LLC. 2014. *Economic Impact from Selected Noxious Weeds in Oregon*. Prepared for Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program.

From: Klatt, Brian (DNR-Contractor) <KLATTB@michigan.gov>

Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 5:40 AM

To: jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov; Gaines, Lisa Joy <Lisa.Gaines@oregonstate.edu>

Subject: Support of the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center

To Whom it may Concern,

I am writing to you today to share my strong support for the role the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) plays in advancing centralized, science-based natural resource information for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. INR is a vital part of the NatureServe network, and makes decision-ready natural resources information available to private individuals as well as state and federal partners. They provide in-house technical expertise on a wide array of natural resource issues, including conservation status of plants and animals, threatened and endangered species, invasive species, wetlands and aquatic resources, remote sensing, and predictive modeling. There is no other entity in Oregon that provides a similar breadth of natural resource information. INR provides services to state agencies that they would have to provide themselves at a higher cost. I strongly urge you to continue support for INR to ensure that sound scientific information is available to inform resource management.

Brian J. Klatt, Ph.D.

Director

Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Michigan State University Extension

Office: 517-284-6195

Cell: 517-304-5878

From: D. Newton

Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:23 AM

To: 'jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov' <jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>

Subject: Testimony; Potential Reductions in Education Accounts

To Whom it May Concern:

June 17, 2020

TESTIMONY OF DAVID J. NEWTON

Professional Engineer

Certified Engineering Geologist

Certified Water Rights Examiner

The Institute of Natural Resources brings necessary knowledge and expertise of Oregon's universities for natural resources decision-making. A critical natural resource of Oregon with difficult decision-making issues is its water resource.

Rapid population growth and rapidly expanding water needs are near or at the limits of available supply. These situations contributed to development of Oregon's Integrated Water Strategy by the Oregon Water Resources Department. Its purpose is to provide a path for resolving water supply issues across the state.

Resolution of water issues must account for many complex hydrologic, economic, agricultural, municipal, environmental and social needs. This accounting involves many stakeholders and is costly and time consuming. The need for knowledge and expertise is high.

The INR brings necessary knowledge and expertise helpful for issue resolution from its pool of intellectuals in hydrology, geology, water supply, and water resource management, water management conflict resolution. Much of this expertise and knowledge is brought by the Oregon State University Water Graduate Program, with support by the INR.

My knowledge of the value brought by the INR and the OSU Water Graduate Program is through my assistance in providing classroom lectures and field education with graduate students relative to complex water supply issues and related water management conflicts in Oregon's upper Deschutes Basin. I have assisted graduate students in the Water Graduate Program with their master's degree thesis projects that were focused on specific water resource issues of the basin. The results of these projects generated needed information for use in water supply management planning that would otherwise be more difficult to obtain due to higher costs of private expertise. At the same time the graduate students provided necessary information, they gained additional knowledge and expertise, and further developed skills necessary for resolution of water management and water conflict issues.

My knowledge of the INR and its critical role comes through my deep involvement in water resources management planning in the upper Deschutes Basin since the mid-1990's. There are many water stakeholders in the basin, bringing many complex issues to resolve, requiring extensive knowledge and expertise that the INR can provide.

Without funding to support the INR and its related programs, much needed university expertise for increasingly critical and complex natural resource issues is lost. Also lost is the role of advanced-degree students in contributing to the body of science and resource management while expanding their expertise and capability to help resolve increasingly complex natural resource issues of Oregon.

Please contact me at cell phone below, or by e-mail with any questions.

David

David J Newton

Principal Engineer & Engineering Geologist

H.A. McCoy Engineering & Surveying, LLC

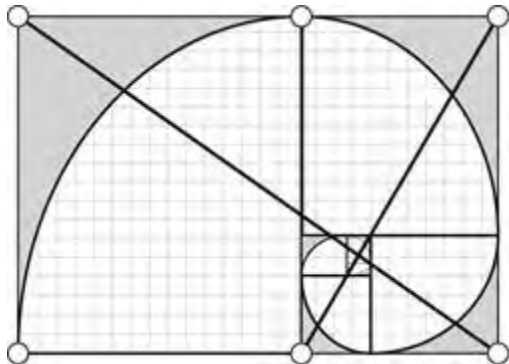
1180 SW Lake Road, Suite 201

Redmond, OR 97756

Office (541)923-7554

Cell (541) 325-3905

Email dnewton@newtonconsultants.com



H.A. M^cCOY

**ENGINEERING
& SURVEYING, LLC**

From: **Tyler Pedersen** <Tyler.Pedersen@tualatinswcd.org>

Date: Fri, Jun 19, 2020 at 10:14 AM

Subject: Written testimony to Education subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

To: jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov <jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov>

To Members of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Tyler Pedersen and I work for the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD) as their Invasive Species Program Coordinator. I am also the Chair of the Mapping and Data Committee for the Clackamas/Clark/Multnomah/Washington County Cooperative Weed Management Area (4-County CWMA), which is a partnership of organizations, agencies, and non-profits dedicated to combating invasive weeds across the region.

I work closely with Lindsey Wise (Biodiversity Data Manager) and Oregon iMapInvasives 3.0, part of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) at Portland State University. TSWCD also contributes \$1,000 per year to help support Lindsey's position. We benefit from the invaluable data and reports that Lindsey has developed through iMapInvasives, as well as Lindsey's expertise on how to use the newly developed iMapInvasives 3.0 program. This data helps us coordinate field surveys and weed treatments among partner organizations and between counties; it allows us to identify and fill in important data gaps and prioritize weed infestations for treatment; and it helps us keep track of newly emerging weed infestations in neighboring counties. Lindsey has contributed significantly to the 4-County CWMA over the past few years by creating weed distribution maps, regularly attending our quarterly meetings, providing vital project feedback to our various committees, serving as a liaison to the public through citizen science projects (e.g., she manages various iNaturalist projects: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/4-county-cwma-priority-species> and <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/4-county-cwma-call-for-data-species>), and training partners in iMapInvasives (by presenting at our annual conference and creating a how-to video)—she has even agreed to temporarily host the ArcGIS Online map for the CWMA's priority weeds map (see <https://4countycwma.org/mapping-data/mapping-data-priority-weed-coordination/>). In addition, she has given us tremendous insight for overcoming the barriers to establishing an effective information network (e.g., the lack of interoperability, data accessibility, funding, and technical expertise). Most importantly, Lindsey's dedication and genuine passion for collaboration across the local natural resources community has gone a long way in supporting agricultural production, protecting human health, and preserving air, water and soil quality.

I strongly encourage that you maintain funding for INR programs like iMapInvasives so Lindsey can continue to provide her invaluable data management services to TSWCD, the 4-County CWMA, and numerous other partners across our region. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at tyler.pedersen@tualatinswcd.org and 971-371-0277. Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,



Tyler Pedersen

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

tyler.pedersen@tualatinswcd.org • tualatinswcd.org

OFFICE 503-334-2288 ext. 111 **CELL** 971-371-0277

7175 NE Evergreen Pkwy #400, Hillsboro OR 97124



WEST MULTNOMAH
Soil & Water Conservation District

The Honorable Lew Fredrick, Co-Chair
The Honorable Susan McLain, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Re: Public Testimony for Education Subcommittee Hearing—Institute for Natural Resources Funding

June 18, 2020

Dear Co-Chair Fredrick, Co-Chair McLain and Members of the Education Subcommittee:

We are writing to provide support for continued funding for the Institute for Natural Resources. This very important educational resource is heavily relied upon by Oregonians across the state. The Institute for Natural Resources (INR) is a critical nexus of collaboration between our university academics and rural and urban communities. Without the INR, we would lose ground on decades of progress made in protecting rural communities from wildfires, mapping priority invasive species, mitigating the effects of climate change on our forest resources, documenting rare plants and animals, and preserving our cultural heritage.

The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District is a public service district dedicated to the conservation of soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment. Our service territory is that portion of Multnomah County west of the Willamette River, all of Sauvie Island including the Columbia County portion of the Island and a portion of Washington County that lies within an area in the north Tualatin Mountains known as Bonny Slope. We rely on the Institute for Natural Resources to help facilitate core aspects of our work. Our District provides funding support and heavily uses the iMap Invasives Oregon tool for mapping, storing, and sharing invasive infestation information; this tool is administered and maintained by INR. In addition to iMap, INR's Oregon Biodiversity Information Center catalogs and shares rare, threatened, and endangered species information that is critical to the entire conservation community.

There is tremendous value in maintaining the INR, as the fiscal cost is minimal and the economic, environmental, and social benefits are far-reaching for years to come.

Sincerely,

Terri Preeg Riggsby,
Chair and Zone 5 Director
West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

Cc: West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yosemite National Park
P. O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389

June 17, 2020

Letter in support of the Institute for Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Education Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means,

I write to you in support of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). I am a Wildlife Ecologist with the National Park Service (NPS) at Yosemite National Park. As the lead biologist for the park's wildlife terrestrial program, I am tasked with assessing wildlife population changes for state and federally listed species in relation to both natural and human caused landscape changes. It is important for our work that INR, and its staff, services, and products continue to be supported by the state of Oregon. For the past two years I have been formally partnering with scientists from INR due to their expertise in ecology and wildlife science to execute two projects of critical importance to the NPS.

First, the INR and the NPS are collaborating to assess the population status of the Sierra Nevada red fox, currently proposed for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. This information on distribution, range, population size, and individuals will inform the Sierra Nevada Red Fox Conservation Strategy for recovering this species that otherwise might become extirpated in the Southern Sierra Nevada. INR scientists are critical collaborators with the NPS in designing and executing studies that provide urgently needed ecological information to inform strategy recommendations.

Secondly, INR has been collaborating to help the NPS design and implement a study using noninvasive methods to survey for mountain lions throughout Yosemite National Park. This study is the first of its kind to determine mountain lion population size and habitat associations in the park. INR scientists are critical to the study design, data analysis, modeling, and manuscript efforts that will inform statewide conservation actions to protect mountain lions. Mountain lions in California are threatened by habitat fragmentation caused by development and changes in forest structure related to beetle kill and fire. These habitat changes prompted the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop a Conservation Strategy to protect the species. Information gained on population size and habitat associations in Yosemite may serve as an essential benchmark from which to compare other landscapes and future conditions.

A continued partnership with INR is vital for the NPS to continue to provide valuable information to decision makers in the most efficient and timely manner possible to best inform management at a critical time in the changing landscapes of Yosemite National Park and the western U.S. I strongly support the work of the INR and its continued funding by the state of Oregon as a vital partner for public land management in Yosemite National Park. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Sarah Stock
Wildlife Ecologist
Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

FJ Triepke
USDA Forest Service
Southwestern Region
333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque NM 87102

16 June 2020

Education Subcommittee
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Oregon State Legislature

Dear **Education Subcommittee**,

We would like to provide **testimonial to the upcoming public hearing on agency allotments, to highlight the value of your Institute for Natural Resources (INR) at Oregon State University (OSU)**. For the past decade, the Southwestern Region of the USDA Forest Service has been applying INR products to support resource planning, environmental compliance, and research on National Forests and Grasslands.

As you know, the Oregon Legislature established the INR to link Oregon's universities with natural resource decision making and to provide objective and defensible data, tools, and knowledge to resource organizations and the public. The INR develops and applies advanced technology and methods to generate mapping, analysis, monitoring, and other information to meet the business needs of various clients in the western US. The INR has demonstrated exceptional service and responsiveness in building affordable and effective products while benefitting the Oregon economy. This work, in turn, attracts additional clients and students to INR and OSU. Other outcomes in the Southwest have included the use of INR products by other government, university, and NGO partner organizations (e.g., New Mexico State Forest Action Plan).

The Southwestern Region recently established another five-year agreement with INR that allows other Forest Service Regions to fund INR for similar mapping and analysis work. **The Forest Service strongly supports maintaining or augmenting budget allotments to INR for the benefit of Oregon and INR clients.**

Please feel free to contact me with questions and for additional input.

Sincerely,

/s/ FJ Triepke PhD

Regional Ecologist

cell: 505-235-0640

email: jack.triepke@usda.gov

CC: Jennifer Ruyle, Deputy Director Ecosystem Assessment & Planning, USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region
Lisa Gaines, Director Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon State University



June 15, 2020

**Letter in support of the Institute for Natural Resources
Submitted to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education**

Co-chairs Frederick and McLain,

I write to you in support of the Institute for Natural Resources (INR). I am a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in the Pacific Southwest Region. As the program leader for the region's carnivore monitoring I am tasked with assessing population changes for state and federally listed carnivore species in relation to both natural and human caused landscape changes. It is important for our work that INR, and its staff, services, and products continue to be supported by the State of Oregon.

For the past three years I have been formally partnering with scientists from INR due to their expertise in ecology and wildlife science to execute a number of projects of critical importance to the USFS.

- 1) INR and the USFS are collaborating to assess the response of the carnivore community in the Sierra Nevada to recent, widespread, and severe tree mortality resulting from a historic drought. The tree mortality event has heightened the already significant risk of high severity fire and is challenging land managers with balancing the need to remove hazardous fuels while allowing for the persistence of native wildlife species. INR scientists are critical collaborators with the USFS in designing and executing studies that provide urgently needed ecological information to inform these decisions.
- 2) Secondly, INR has been collaborating to help the USFS design a protocol to inform the use of Limited Operating Periods (LOPs) for the Pacific fisher, currently a candidate for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. While LOPs are critical tools to conserve important denning areas during the breeding season, they also often conflict with the timing for prescribed fire treatments or other fuels reduction projects that in the long term are essential for providing a more fire resilient landscape. INR's work with the USFS is helping create a tools for land managers to refine implementation of LOP's to meet both wildlife conservation and fuels reduction goals.

A continued partnership with INR is vital for the USFS to continue to provide valuable information to land managers in the most efficient and timely manner possible to best inform management at a critical time in the high fire risk landscapes of western forests. I strongly support the work of the INR and its continued funding by the state of Oregon as a vital partner for public land management across the west.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Jody M. Tucker, Ph.D.
Region 5 Carnivore Monitoring Program Leader
U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region 5
jody.tucker@usda.gov, 559-359-5888



June 20, 2020

Education Subcommittee
Oregon Joint Committee on Ways & Means

Dear Committee Members:

We are writing regarding our concerns on the possibility of significant budget cuts to the Institute of Natural Resources at Oregon State University. We write this while recognizing the difficult times the State is confronting due to Covid-19 and its impacts on state revenues.

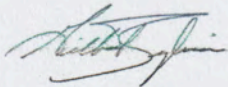
The Institute of Natural Resources, since its establishment by the Legislature more than two decades ago, has evolved to become the state's leading data depository and digital library on natural resources. It is used every day by thousands of scientists, state agencies, resource managers, businesses, and Oregon citizens. Besides a depository, the Institute has created numerous tools to access, filter and report the data. These tools transform raw data into information and knowledge valuable to Oregon citizens. The data used by scientists to investigate an important natural research issue is also accessible to the all Oregon citizens through portals, dashboards, reports, and stories. Oregon citizens can get up-to-date information on critical natural resource issues (e.g., wildfires, climate change, wildlife) that is specifically targeted for a given residence, business, community, and region.

The Institute contributes significant value to the state through its products and services. The Institute also saves the state millions of dollars every year. Rather than build their own expensive GIS platforms and databases, researchers, resource managers, and state agencies utilize the Institute's existing data, expertise, and digital infrastructure to collect, archive, and share their own data and information.

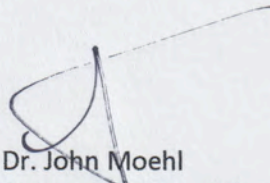
As part of an industry-university project that has contracted with the INR, we can personally attest to the ingenuity and professionalism of the Institute and their ability to build innovative and sophisticated data tools to support development of natural resource-based industries. Their professionalism, team approach, and digital services has significantly exceeded our team's expectations.

The need for intelligently deigned digital libraries to address natural resources will only become more important in the future as Oregon continues to grapple with challenging natural resource issues. We hope that the considerable foresight the Oregon legislature showed when it established the Institute will continue into the future.

Respectfully,



Dr. Gilbert Sylvia
Economist
Professor Emeritus
Oregon State University
gil.sylvia@oregonstate.edu



Dr. John Moehl
Aquaculture Specialist
Realised Expectations
planil03@gmail.com

Ken Vaughn
Director of Impact
Investments
VertueLab
ken.vaughn@vertuelab.org

U.S. Section Council &
NatureServe Network Members

17 June 2020

Senator Lew Frederick
CC: Representative Susan McLain
CC: INR Director Dr. Lisa Gaines
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
Placeholder RE: Support for Institute for Natural Resources

Dear Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

We are concerned about the news that the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) at Oregon State and Portland State Universities is at risk of budget rescissions. We strongly support the continuance of funding for INR to remain a viable and productive member of our conservation network of state and provincial partners.

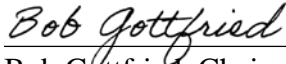
INR plays a vital role in advancing centralized, science-based natural resource information for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Moreover, the INR as a member of the NatureServe Network, working collectively with programs in the other 49 states and Canadian provinces and territories, makes decision-ready natural resources information available to private individuals and industry, as well as state and federal partners.

The technical expertise provided by INR impacts a wide array of natural resource issues including, conservation status assessments of “Species of Greatest Conservation Need”, threatened, and endangered species. For a long time the INR has been seen within the NatureServe Network as regional and national experts on invasive species, wetlands and aquatic resources, remote sensing, and advancing the development and use of predictive modeling in natural resources conservation.

To our knowledge there is no other organization in Oregon that provides a similar breadth of natural resources information or expertise. It is difficult to imagine that the services that INR provides to state partners could be duplicated as efficiently and as cost effectively by the state agencies themselves. For this reason, and for the value that they bring to the NatureServe Network and the national natural resources discussion, we strongly urge you to continue support for INR to ensure that sound scientific information is available to manage Oregon’s valuable and unique natural resources.

Sincerely,

NatureServe Network U.S. Section Council



Bob Gottfried, Chair
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Texas Wildlife Diversity Branch
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Chair & Southeast Representative



Joe Rocchio, Vice Chair
Washington Natural Heritage Program
Washington Dept of Natural Resources
Member-at-Large



Greg Podniesinski, Secretary
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program
PA Dept Conservation & Natural Resources
Northeast Representative



Jason Bulluck
Virginia Division of Natural Heritage
VA Dept of Conservation and Recreation
Northeast Representative



Janet Sternburg
Missouri Natural Heritage Program
Missouri Department of Conservation
Midwest Representative

Nicole Lorenz

[Nicole Lorenz \(Jun 18, 2020 12:03 CDT\)](#)

Nicole Lorenz
Louisiana Natural Heritage Program
Louisiana Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries
Southeast Representative



Misty Nelson
California Natural Diversity Database
California Dept of Fish and Wildlife
West Representative



Owen Boyle
Wisconsin Natural Heritage Program
Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources
Midwest Representative

Angie Schmidt

[Angie Schmidt \(Jun 18, 2020 13:03MDT\)](#)

Angie Schmidt
Idaho Natural Heritage Program
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
West Representative











Letter of Support for Oregon Institute for Natural Resources

Final Audit Report

2020-06-18


Created:	2020-06-17
By:	Bob Gottfried (Bob.gottfried@tpwd.texas.gov)
Status:	Signed
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"Letter of Support for Oregon Institute for Natural Resources" History

-  Document created by Bob Gottfried (Bob.gottfried@tpwd.texas.gov)
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-  Document emailed to Nicole Lorenz (nlorenz@wlf.la.gov) for signature
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-  Email viewed by Nicole Lorenz (nlorenz@wlf.la.gov)
2020-06-18 - 4:52:48 PM GMT- IP address: 68.105.45.21
-  Document e-signed by Nicole Lorenz (nlorenz@wlf.la.gov)
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-  Document emailed to Misty Nelson (misty.nelson@wildlife.ca.gov) for signature
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-  Email viewed by Misty Nelson (misty.nelson@wildlife.ca.gov)
2020-06-18 - 5:48:13 PM GMT- IP address: 23.103.201.254
-  Document e-signed by Misty Nelson (misty.nelson@wildlife.ca.gov)
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2020-06-18 - 6:35:29 PM GMT- IP address: 66.102.8.117

 Document e-signed by Jason Bulluck (jason.bulluck@dcr.virginia.gov)


Signature Date: 2020-06-18 - 6:38:11 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 166.67.66.240

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2020-06-18 - 7:03:14 PM GMT- IP address: 164.165.235.3

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2020-06-18 - 7:03:49 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Janet Sternburg (janet.sternburg@mdc.mo.gov)

2020-06-18 - 7:07:53 PM GMT- IP address: 23.103.200.254

 Document e-signed by Janet Sternburg (janet.sternburg@mdc.mo.gov)

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✔ Signed document emailed to Bob Gottfried (Bob.gottfried@tpwd.texas.gov), Janet Sternburg (janet.sternburg@mdc.mo.gov), Joe Rocchio (joe.rocchio@dnr.wa.gov), Angie Schmidt (angie.schmidt@idfg.idaho.gov), and 5 more

2020-06-18 - 7:42:08 PM GMT



7/9/2020

Representative Dan Rayfield
900 Court St. NE, H-275,
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Rayfield,

I recognize that as a co-chair of the Ways and Means committee you are faced with difficult budget decisions caused by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus. I am reaching out to you, as an OSU College of Engineering strategic partner, to share with you the importance of engineering education. I know you are working hard to limit the budget impacts to the Public University State Fund, and I ask you to consider the same approach with the statewide programs, specifically the Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF).

NuScale is working to improve the lives of people all over the world by providing carbon-free electricity, clean drinking water, and district heating just to name a few of our goals. As you may know, NuScale Power is a spin-off business out of Oregon State University. We are headquartered in Corvallis, Oregon and employ over 400 people, with over 250 engineers, many of whom are Beavers! A key reason for locating in Corvallis is the proximity to the College of Engineering, the School of Nuclear Engineering (where we still maintain an active research partnership) and of course the college graduates.

As a graduate of the engineering program at Oregon State University and a member of Oregon State's College of Engineering Dean's Leadership Council, I can confirm that the college has already implemented budget cuts as have our engineering colleagues at Portland State University and Oregon Tech. Additional reductions from the statewide programs' budget, will likely limit student access, reduce degree choices and increase student time to graduation. In the long term, the state supported engineering colleges will produce fewer qualified engineers and shrink the important research missions at our universities. This will impact industries across Oregon, limit the development of Oregon's workforce and negatively impact the economic stability and growth following the Covid-19 crisis.

I thank you for your leadership in Salem and recognize you have tough decisions ahead of you. If I can answer additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. When we resolve normal business operations, I would welcome you to visit NuScale and learn more about the company and our impact in region.

Sincerely,

Dale Atkinson

Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nuclear Officer



July 22, 2020

The Honorable Lew Frederick
The Honorable Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF)

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the Committee,

We recognize the committee is faced with difficult budget decisions caused by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus. We are reaching out to the committee, as we did during the 2019 session, to impress upon you the importance of engineering education. The Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF) enable us to continue to increase the number and improve the quality of engineers in the state. Further, the stability provided by ETSF allows each college to invest in key priorities including outreach, recruitment and retention, programs to support a diverse and inclusive student body and student access including reduction of time for degree completion.

For 20 years, the legislature provided Oregon's public engineering and computer science programs with critical support through directed funding. These funds transformed engineering programs in the State, supported innovation, and boosted the State's economy with a competitive workforce.

As you discuss proposed cuts, please keep in mind that the Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF) are separate from the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) and reductions to ETSF may limit student access by:

- Reducing Oregon student access to state engineering programs (increased cost and potentially fewer degree choices);
- Increasing student time to graduation (reduced number of instructors and course sections); and
- Producing fewer qualified engineers and scientists for Oregon's economic recovery from COVID and sustained regional growth.

The State's historical investment through the Engineering Technology Industry Council, and now through the ETSF, has:

- Tripled the number of engineering graduates in the State;
- More than tripled research expenditures;
- Successfully enabled a focus on diversifying faculty and student populations, with:
 - Oregon State University doubling the number of female engineering faculty, ranking second nationally among land-grant universities for percentage of tenured or tenure-track faculty who are women and third among the nation's public highly research active "R1" universities;
 - Portland State University increasing underrepresented minorities to 37% of students;
 - Oregon Institute of Technology doubling the number of female engineering and technology faculty;
 - University of Oregon increasing underrepresented minorities to 50% within graduate internship programs;
- Provided substantial economic mobility for students graduating with engineering degrees;
- Created the workforce fueling industries important to Oregon's economy; and
- Leveraged private donor and industry philanthropic support.

ETSF funding remains essential for public institutions to provide meaningful access to engineering education, produce graduates to join the workforce, and fuel the economy as we climb out of the current crisis.

Sincerely,

Scott Ashford, Kearney Dean of Engineering, Oregon State Engineering
Richard Corsi, Erzurumlu Dean of Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science, Portland State University
Thomas Keyser, Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology and Management, Oregon Institute of Technology
Robert Guldberg, Vice President and Knight Campus Executive Director, University of Oregon

July 23, 2020

To: Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
From: Nathaniel Brown, Oregon Business & Industry (OBI)
RE: OBI Testimony in Support of Maintaining Resources for Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund

Dear co-chairs Frederick and McLain, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Oregon Business & Industry's (OBI) membership of more than 1,600 businesses that employ nearly 330,000 people in the state, I write in support of maintaining current funding levels for the Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF). Just like thousands of business owners throughout the state, the Legislature is now tasked with making difficult decisions to try and balance the budget and mitigate the economic crisis brought on by COVID-19. We understand and appreciate the enormity of your responsibility during these challenging times.

Long before the pandemic, OBI has prioritized the establishment of stable, strategic, and evidence-based investments that result in measurable outcomes in student achievement. Now more than ever, we urge you to protect the funding for ETSF as specifically noted in the draft budget plan released by Co-chairs Steiner Hayward, Rayfield and Johnson last week.

Maintaining funding for engineering education at our postsecondary institutions helps sustain a diverse workforce in the very industries positioned to lead our state and country out of the current health and economic crisis. Indeed, with these funds in recent years, Oregon State University and the Oregon Institute of Technology have reportedly doubled the number of female engineering faculty, and Portland State University and the University of Oregon have increased their minority representation to 37% 50%, respectively, within graduate internships and related programs. This work must continue uninterrupted.

Students that graduate with engineering-related degrees have significantly more opportunities for higher-wage and high-demand jobs, increasing economic mobility for themselves and their families. As our elected officials deliberate which programs to maintain and which cuts to make, OBI encourages you to protect the ETSF for these reasons.

This program is proven to lead to better educational outcomes and our economy benefits when more Oregonians have access to higher education and, specifically, the engineering education funded through this essential program. As our state collectively recovers from the crisis at hand, it is imperative that Oregon's students are prepared to adapt to a new economic reality. We simply cannot afford to reduce funding for the ETSF.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue for our state's workforce. We appreciate and echo the bipartisan acknowledgement of education as a top priority during this crisis and beyond. OBI is ready and able to partner with the state Legislature, postsecondary institutions, the Oregon Department of Education, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and others, to ensure the continued success of Oregon's students.

Contact: Nathaniel Brown, OBI, nathanielbrown@oregonbusinessindustry.com



TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION
OF OREGON

July 21, 2020

Members of the Committee:

The Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) recognizes you are faced with difficult budget decisions caused by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus. We know you are working to limit the budget impacts to the Public University State Fund, as well as the statewide programs, specifically the Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF).

TAO aims to establish Oregon as a world-class, inclusive innovation economy. We work with over 450 tech and tech-enabled companies in Oregon, ranging from some of the largest technology companies in the world to early-stage startups. Our programs focus on helping companies to grow and remain competitive, and we have a particular emphasis on inputs to growth such as talent, capital, and the business environment. The engineering and computer science programs at public universities in Oregon are an essential resource for our members. Tech is one of the few sectors that will help to lead the state's economy out of the COVID-19 crisis, and many of our members are continuing to hire people as other sectors are laying people off. As companies in other sectors seek to become more competitive and resilient, the vast majority are doing so using technology, and they need tech workers as a result. To be sure, half of all tech jobs in Oregon are at non-tech companies.

Due to COVID impacts, each engineering program at Oregon's public universities has already absorbed budget implications resulting in furloughs and staff and program reductions. If the legislature cuts the engineering programs, the colleges will likely limit student access and reduce degree choices and course offerings, leading to an increase in the student time to graduation. Reductions will cause the state-supported engineering colleges to produce fewer qualified engineers and computer scientists and shrink the important research missions at our universities. My understanding is that each engineering program is working proactively to improve recruitment and retention and building collaborative opportunities to meet anticipated demands. Disinvesting in engineering would stifle this creativity.

Strong engineering programs are critical to the development of Oregon's workforce and additional budget reductions will negatively impact the economic stability and growth following the Covid- 19 crisis. Thank you for your consideration.



TECHNOLOGY
ASSOCIATION
OF OREGON

Sincerely yours,

Skip Newberry

President & CEO, Technology Association of Oregon

The Honorable Lew Frederick

The Honorable Susan McLain

Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

900 Court St., NE

Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF)

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the Committee.

As the Engineering Student Council (ESC) President at Oregon State University, I am writing today to urge your continued support for the Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF). These funds provide critical support to OSU's College of Engineering programs as well as engineering programs at Portland State University, the Oregon Institute of Technology and the University of Oregon.

The College of Engineering provides a thriving and engaging environment for engineering students of all backgrounds to pursue their dreams and reach their ultimate potential. Faculty and staff aim for successful education by constructing educational communities that actively engage students in learning. Additionally, the student community continually strives to promote diversity and create a culture of inclusion through multiple leadership programs offered by OSU. The College of Engineering seeks to reduce barriers and improve access works for any student who wants to become an engineer.

Our organization is composed of an ardent and diverse group of undergraduate engineering students, dedicated to the success of Oregon State's student lead organizations sponsored by our College of Engineering. The ESC financially and technically assists over 65 organizations providing students with experiences that enhance learning through hands-on exposure, and builds community through affinity programs that make the world of engineering more accessible to students of

The ESC recognizes that Oregon Legislators need to make difficult budget decisions during a very challenging time. We are grateful to learn the co-chairs of Ways and Means are currently protecting the ETSF from budget cuts. It is our hope the Education Subcommittee will also support this effort.

Our college has already made budget cuts. This summer, the ESC met with the Dean of Engineering and College of Engineering leadership to discuss the budget's impact on the engineering student population. If the legislature should cut ETSF funds, it is expected that additional cuts would reduce student access, course offering and college programs. OSU's College of Engineering is one of the most accessible programs in the Northwest. We are home to nearly 9,000 engineering students, who graduate and drive the economy as employees in regional industries and public agencies. The growth and success of the

college is directly correlated to the legislature's long term strategic financial investment. We ask that you continue this important investment.

We appreciate your leadership in Salem. We, the ESC, open our doors to you if you would like to learn more about the College of Engineering, our student success programs, and future initiatives. We hope you are safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Faiq Waqar | President of Engineering Student Council

Audrey Collins | ESC Vice President of Finance

Melanie Huynh | ESC Vice President of Development

Rose Johnson | ESC Vice President of Information and Communication

Lauren Lippman | ESC Vice President of Events

Subisha Sundaram | ESC Vice President of Outreach

From:
To:
Subject: ETSF Support
Date: Sunday, July 26, 2020 5:09:58 PM

*The Honorable Lew Frederick
The Honorable Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301*

RE: Support for Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF)

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the Committee.

I am writing as a member of OSU College of Engineering Dean's Leadership Council, an experienced engineer with careers global technology companies and a former member of the President's Advisory Council at OIT.

We are facing uncommon and very difficult times. I appreciate the role you face and the difficult budget decisions you must make. We know you are working to limit the budget impacts to the Public University Support Fund, as well as the statewide programs, specifically the Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF).

As a member of OSU Dean's leadership council and having participated in an industry briefing led by engineering deans at PSU, OSU and Oregon Tech, I understand that each engineering program has already implemented budget reductions resulting in furloughs and staff and program reductions. If the legislature further disinvests in the engineering programs, the colleges will likely limit student access, degree choices and course offerings leading to an increase in the student time to graduation. Reductions will cause the state supported engineering colleges to produce fewer qualified engineers and computer scientist and shrink the important research missions at our universities. After graduating from OSU, I had the opportunity to work for companies that led Oregon's economic development growth. The legislature's long term commitment to engineering education played a key role in Oregon's success, the future looks equally exciting and a strong economy will depend on graduates with STEM degrees.

Thank you,

Mary Coucher



July 22, 2020

The Honorable Lew Frederick
The Honorable Susan McLain
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education
900 Court St. NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF)

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain,

On behalf of the Oregon CTE-STEM Employer Coalition, which represents more than seventy employers, business and labor organizations, I'd like to express my appreciation for your continued support and partnership in retaining the Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF). The ETSF supports engineering and technology programs across the state's seven public universities that work to advance Career Technical Education (CTE) and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education opportunities for Oregon's students.

As the chair of the Oregon CTE-STEM Employer Coalition and as President and CEO of Pacific Power, I know firsthand the importance of providing students the educational and career opportunities CTE and STEM offer as they work to build a brighter future for themselves.

Last Friday, I heard from the deans of the engineering schools as well as businesses from around the state about how ETSF funding remains essential for public institutions to provide meaningful access to CTE-STEM education, produce graduates to fill high-wage, high-demand jobs, and fuel the economy as we climb out of the current crisis. Dean Richard Corsi, from Portland State University, reported that a large fraction of the students there are from the lowest two economic quartiles. One in three are first generation college students and almost half are Pell Grant eligible. They are a dedicated group of students and as a result of the investment the state has made through the ETSF, not only are graduation rates increasing, but the lives of these students are being transformed.

Oregon CTE-STEM Employer Coalition
Oregon Business Council
1100 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1608
Portland, OR 97204

As our students, teachers and the economy face these extraordinary times, the Oregon CTE-STEM Employer Coalition appreciates the preservation of the ETSF investment and looks forward to continued collaboration with you to achieve Oregon's education goals.

Thank you for your leadership during these most challenging times.

Sincerely,



Stefan Bird
Chair, Oregon CTE-STEM Employer Coalition

cc: Senator Arnie Roblan
Senator Chuck Thomsen
Representative Teresa Alonzo Leon
Representative Mark Meek
Representative Mike Nearman
Representative Carl Wilson

The Oregon CTE-STEM Employer Coalition is an initiative of the Oregon Business Council. For more information, please contact Kyle Ritchey-Noll at kritcheynoll@orbusinesscouncil.org, or visit the CTE-STEM Employer Coalition website: <http://orbusinesscouncil.org/our-work/cte-stem-coalition>

Oregon CTE-STEM Employer Coalition
Oregon Business Council
1100 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1608
Portland, OR 97204

HP Inc.
1020 NE Circle Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97330
USA

hp.com



Dear Rep. Rayfield:

It has been a while since we have connected, but we wanted to engage with you on a critical issue for HP, our good friends at Oregon State University and higher education, and all businesses that rely on well-educated and trained engineering students.

During this COVID time, public education is facing great challenges, especially when the need is great to provide meaningful access to education. We know that you have many difficult budget decisions ahead and we would like to express our gratitude for your efforts in supporting a continuation of investment in the Public University State Fund (PUSF).

Among the critical programs that face budget cuts is the state's Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF). This fund has been essential to the state's ability to attract and retain talent and improve the quality of engineers in the state. For over 20 years, Oregon has supported its public engineering and computer science programs, resulting in a competitive workforce which has branded Oregon as a hub of innovation and economic vitality.

Oregon's essential investment in the Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund has:

- Tripled the number of engineering graduates in the state.
- More than tripled research expenditures.
- Provided substantial economic mobility for students graduating with engineering degrees.
- Leveraged private donor and industry philanthropic support.

Obtaining an engineering degree remains one of the best options for economic mobility and a reduction in funding to the ETSF would significantly reduce Oregon student's accessibility to these programs. With a decrease in state investment, engineering programs could become more costly, create fewer degree options, reduce the number of instructors and courses available, increase class sizes and ultimately produce fewer qualified engineers and scientists that could be essential to Oregon's economic recovery from the COVID pandemic.

We urge you to please protect this crucial fund which has become the foundation for creating successful engineers in the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Weber', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Tim Weber

Jon G. Huddleston
Vice President, Engineering & Utility Operations
(503) 721-2522
FAX (503) 220-2584
jon.huddleston@nwnatural.com



Committee on Ways and Means
Education Subcommittee
Oregon Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and members of the Committee,

I recognize the state of Oregon is faced with difficult budget decisions caused by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus. I am reaching out to the Joint Ways & Means, Education Subcommittee to share our company and workforce's views on the importance of engineering education. The Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF) enables the states Engineering Programs to continue to increase the number and improve the quality of engineers in the state. Further, the stability provided by ETSF allows each college to invest in key priorities including outreach, recruitment and retention, programs to support a diverse and inclusive student body and student access including reduction of time for degree completion.

For 20 years, the legislature provided Oregon's public engineering and computer science programs with critical support through directed funding. These funds transformed engineering programs in Oregon, supported innovation, and gave Oregon students the training needed to join a competitive workforce.

As you discuss proposed cuts, please keep in mind that the Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF) are separate from the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) and reductions to ETSF may limit student access by:

- Reducing Oregon student access to state engineering programs (increased cost and potentially fewer degree choices);
- Increasing student time to graduation (reduced number of instructors and course sections); and
- Producing fewer qualified engineers and scientists for Oregon's economic recovery from COVID and sustained regional growth.

The State's historical investment through the Engineering Technology Industry Council, and now through the ETSF, has:

- Tripled the number of engineering graduates in the State;
- More than tripled research expenditures;
- Successfully enabled a focus on diversifying faculty and student populations
- Provided substantial economic mobility for students graduating with engineering degrees;

Created the workforce fueling industries important to Oregon's economy; and
Leveraged private donor and industry philanthropic support.

At NW Natural, we rely on the engineering pipeline created by Oregon's public universities, and have hired many of their Engineering graduates during the time that ETSF has been in place and even prior to ETSF. These outstanding graduates have enabled us to provide the essential service of delivering safe, reliable and cost-effective natural gas to 750,000 homes and businesses in 140 communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington. These engineers use their educational knowledge and skills to creatively problem solve some the energy industry's largest challenges.

ETSF funding remains essential for public institutions to provide meaningful access to engineering education, produce graduates to join the workforce, and fuel the economy as we climb out of the current crisis. We are committed to hiring Oregon's public Engineering graduates. We ask that you appropriate the ETSF funding necessary to enable public universities to keep training these incredible students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon G. Huddleston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jon G. Huddleston
Vice President, Engineering & Utility Operations
NW Natural

cc: Joint Ways & Means Committee
Representative Rayfield
Senator Gelser

From:
To:
Subject: Support for the Oregon ETSF program
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:58:39 PM

Dear Senators Steiner Hayward and Johnson

I am writing to you to seek your support for maintaining at current levels the ETSF funds that support engineering programs and degrees at the Oregon universities. I recognize that Oregon legislators are faced with a miserable responsibility of dealing with a significantly reduced budget caused by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. But I need you to be aware that this funding is crucial to continue educating and granting degrees to the engineering students that will create the new products and employment opportunities for Oregon of the future.

I write this appeal as the former president of Mentor Graphics Corporation, a Wilsonville-based company, where I served as president from 1997 until its acquisition by Siemens in 2017. Mentor is an engineering driven company, employing about 6,000 people, approximately 80% of whom are degreed engineers. The company creates software and hardware to design advanced electronics, products that are called electronic design automation tools, and which are the standards of use at companies like Intel, Samsung, Hewlett Packard and Apple. I also serve today as chair of the board of trustees at Portland State University and have been a member of the advisory board for the college of engineering for approaching two decades.

Any reduction in ETSF funding, I can assure you, will result in less student access, lengthier student time to graduation and a reduced student degree choices. We as a state will be the worse in a big way as it will impact our industries and our economic stability and growth following the end of the pandemic.

Thank you for all you do and for considering this request.

Sincerely, Greg Hinckley

2417 SW 16th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97201