

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 3, 2019

House Committee on Education
80th Oregon Legislative Assembly
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Ref: HB 2871-1 & A Correction to previous testimony

Dear Colleagues:

Please accept my apologies: I understand that HB 2871-1 is what I had believed House Bill 2030 was; it is HB 2871-1 that warrants our approval. It clarifies the mission of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC). The changes included in the -1 will make OYCC more effective and efficient. Few “at-risk” youth programs offer the same proven value as this program. It has taught generations of young workers through “hands on” skills development; it teaches stewardship through out of the classroom learning that cannot be replicated any other way. These days when we speak of “career and technical education,” we sometimes forget the value of old fashioned “hard work” in the sunshine – a type of vocational learning that is often left out of the larger conversation.

OYCC provides both career ready skillsets as well as outdoors “work” opportunities. OYCC does this through two programs: 1) the Summer Conservation Corps (SCC); and the 2) Community Stewardship Corps (CSC). These programs yield benefit for the students as well as for our state and communities. Both programs give young people an opportunity to gain soft skills as well as specialized experiences directly related to outdoor learning. They help young people learn how to work in groups; it teaches how to take a project from concept to reality. These programs positively impact all thirty-six (36) counties and have changed the lives of thousands of young people throughout Oregon.

I am an OYCC supporter because I believe there are few – if any – programs with a demonstrated history of success. It is a consistent, proven, and transparent program that does what we need. Over the past thirty years OYCC has delivered critical programming to young people who might otherwise have fallen off the cliff; it is a program that demonstrates our community values, it is a legacy that we must built upon. HB 2871-1 gives the organization the flexibility to adjust to modern realities: I urge a “yes” vote.

In conclusion, if you have questions or require additional information, please let me know. I appreciate your attention on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans".