

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now

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Confronting Climate Change

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**Importance of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute
in the Arena of Regional Climate Trends and Projections**

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It has been drawn to my attention that the Education Committee of the Ways and Means Committee is evaluating the effectiveness of individual Public State University Programs and consider eliminating or reducing funding where appropriate. I write to urge the committee to NOIT consider undermining the activities of Oregon State University's Oregon Climate Change Research Institute.

I write partly as co-facilitator of Southern Oregon Climate Action Now, an organization of some 1500 Southern Oregonians concerned about global warming and its regional impacts, but also as a science researcher and educator of several decades who has gained a tremendous appreciation for climate science and its importance to all of us.

I have been engaged in teaching ecology, conservation biology, and environmental science for many years. Prior to my retirement from the Department of Biology at Southeast Missouri State University, climate science was an integral component of several of the courses that I taught. Both before retirement and subsequent to it, I also delivered community presentations and offered community courses in climate science basics and local consequences - initially in Missouri, and since relocating to Southern Oregon in 2010, focusing on Pacific Northwest trends and projections.

In my experience, there is absolutely no better source of information on basic climate science and the regional Oregon and Pacific Northwest impacts of global warming than the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. Without OCCRI as a thriving productive contributor to our knowledge and author of invaluable summaries of our knowledge, those of us trying to understand the issues to educate others about them would be fumbling and stumbling in a much-darkened environment.

When we consider the regional impacts of global warming: increasing temperatures; seasonal shifts in precipitation patterns; declining snowfall patterns; increasing risks of flooding and drought; increasing wildfire risk, and the impacts of these on our region, it becomes evident that academics, legislators, state agency personnel, journalists, and the public absolutely need the most current and accurate information available. Given the existential threat that Global Warming poses to us all, it is imperative that we all have access to the best available information.

As state, regional, county, and city leaders attempt to mitigate the worst impacts of global warming, and minimize these, it is essential that they have access to the best available information. There is no doubt that the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute is the 'go-to' organization for all of us who are concerned about this issue and attempting to address and resolve it when we seek information about the basic science, regional trends, and regional projections. Without occri, we'd all largely be fumbling in the dark and guessing about what is happening and what might happen.

Although I write as a scientist, I would also like to stress that the publications and communication of occri are among the clearest and most approachable available anywhere. This means that they are accessible and comprehensible to anyone willing to accord them the time necessary to read and understand them. For this achievement, occri is to be congratulated and should be rewarded.

I strongly urge the Education Committee of the Oregon Legislative Ways and Means Committee to look favorably upon occri and avoid any temptation to consider reducing its budget. The state cannot afford to hamper the efforts of occri to keep us informed; as a resource on climate science, occri is a state treasure.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan R.P. Journet". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Alan R.P. Journet Ph.D.