

Tillamook County



Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Board of Commissioners
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April 17, 2019

Via email: jwmed.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Ways and Means Education Subcommittee,

The Tillamook county Board of Commissioners would like to convey our support for continued state funding for the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI). Since its inception in 2009, OCCRI's vision of achieving a climate-prepared Northwest has significantly helped the state and the region via climate change adaptation planning, connecting science with decision making, and fundamental climate change research.

Through education efforts and assistance from the OCCRI, Tillamook County has successfully amended zoning code provisions and development standards to better address development within hazardous areas, resulting in risk reduction and hazard mitigation. Coastal adaptation plans have been developed or are in process of being updated to promote community education and future framework plans for hazard preparedness and resilience.

OCCRI has also remained a strong partner in Tillamook County's efforts to ensure effective dune restoration upon completion of permitted foredune grading projects with focus on enhancing our natural or nature-based dune features that promote stable, healthy dunes while protecting property. With OCCRI's support, we will be able to continue utilizing the best available science, data, and other tools to complete coastal mapping projects, assess impacts and initiate adaptation strategies that include natural and nature based features, and carry out these strategies through Tillamook County's land use program over the next several decades resulting in increased coastal community resilience.

Tillamook County continues to struggle with the impacts of coastal inundation and erosion suffered by its coastal communities, and continuous efforts to promote resiliency are priority. If OCCRI no longer existed, Tillamook County's coastal communities would no longer have the critical resources and support necessary to pursue opportunities for increased community resilience. Without OCCRI's assistance, there is serious uncertainty of future climate change impacts on coastal communities and the implications to coastal development, the built environment, and Tillamook County's economy.

In summary, we urge the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee to continue to support the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. The State's investment has been significantly leveraged to provide a broad range of unique and critical services.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR TILLAMOOK COUNTY, OREGON

David Yamamoto, Chair

Bill Baertlein, Vice-Chair

Mary Faith Bell, Commissioner