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

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to express our support for increasing the funding level for Oregon State University from 5.8% to 7.42%.

Of particular concern for us is funding for the OSU-affiliated Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI). In 2020, our firm was hired by the City of Salem to complete a Climate Action Plan. To begin the project, the City needed accurate and comprehensive climate projection data for Salem so that they could understand how climate change will impact the community and what strategies should be implemented to increase climate resilience.

We consulted with OCCRI in the fall of 2020, and their guidance and resources were invaluable. With their help, we were able to not only access a full set of climate data, but complete a comprehensive climate vulnerability assessment for Salem which will form a key component of the Climate Action Plan.

This assistance ultimately may save lives. Climate change will bring more destructive events to Oregon, and it is more important than ever before that communities understand their exposure to climate-related risk, and take steps to create adaptive responses. OCCRI provides a critical service to Oregonians at this time in making data, resources, and advising available to a wide audience.

Our desire was to have OCCRI serve as ongoing advisors over the course of several months. Unfortunately, due to their limited budget, they were only able to provide two phone calls and some email exchanges. With increased funding, they could build capacity to advise many Oregon communities on the complicated interconnections of climate impacts and existing vulnerabilities.

Oregon is fortunate to have OCCRI. With increased funding they can fulfill their important mission. We urge you to support their request for increased funding.

With best regards,

Kim Morrow
Director of Climate Planning & Resilience