



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Briannon Fraley, Director
1221 S.W. Fourth Ave., Room 410
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 823-4130
Fax: (503) 823-3014

May 12, 2021

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

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain and Members of the Subcommittee,

The City of Portland supports the following investments in the Higher Education Coordinating Commission budget (SB 5528):

The City urges the inclusion of \$11.7 million for **youth employment services** with a focus on low-income and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities, as proposed in HB 2092. Young workers, especially young BIPOC workers, have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and face significant challenges as we turn toward economic recovery. Long-term youth unemployment has an important nexus with economic mobility, mental health, and upstream violence prevention in our communities. Support for youth employment in HB 2092 is a necessary and compliments the City's economic recovery and violence prevention strategies.

Public University State Public Service Programs support excellent, data-informed policies across all-matter of subject areas. The City of Portland supports continued and sustained funding for the **Population Research Center (PRC)** and **Oregon Consensus** at Portland State University and the **Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI)** at Oregon State University (OSU). These programs provide critical research, data, and other supports utilized by many of the City's bureaus.

The PRC plays critical role in providing population data and analysis for Oregon and its communities and was an essential partner in the City's work to reduce the undercount in the 2020 census. The City supports the PRC's work with demographic research, especially as the PRC supports data-driven decision making that helped to ensure a completer and more inclusive census count for Oregon.

Oregon Consensus played a critical role with the Oregon Recycling Steering Committee, of which the City was a participant, that worked for over two years to bring stakeholders together to develop recommendations that addressed much needed improvements to modernize Oregon's recycling system through SB 582. The City supports the funding request of the Oregon Consensus program as part of the dispute resolution services allocation.

The City relies on the research and technical expertise of OCCRI to inform climate science assessment and long-term water supply and infrastructure planning. OCCRI reports, including the recent Fifth Oregon Climate Assessment, provide important localized climate information that influence the development of City climate adaptation, climate equity, and climate resilience policies and strategies. The City of Portland respectfully urges your support to increase base funding for OSU (as OCCRI's institutional host) to the requested 7.42% to ensure OCCRI can retain its capacity to continue to provide essential, actionable climate science for City decisionmakers and planners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Noll", written in a cursive style.

Eric Noll
City of Portland
Eric.Noll@portlandoregon.gov | 503.823.6726