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On Behalf Of: The CREST at the Willow Witt Ranch  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB531

The 2021 and 2022 grants for summer enrichment programs administered by the Oregon Department of Education were game changers for students attending Nature Summer Day Camp at The Crest near Ashland.

In our community still recovering from the 2020 Labor Day fires, the grants enabled free bus transportation from Central Point, Talent, and Ashland to the Crest in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, making summer enrichment possible for more than 200 children of working parents.

Some of those parents are my friends and they shared with me that if there was not a free bus to take their children to summer camp, they would not have been able to attend. Those of us fortunate to have grown up being able to access the great outdoors need to pay it forward and continue to support our young people having the same opportunities.

We support Senate Bill 531 to fund on-going grants for this important educational tool for Oregon students.