

April 10, 2023

Co-Chair Lew Frederick  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE, S-419  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain  
Oregon House of Representatives  
900 Court St. NE, H-493  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Mr. Frederick and Ms. McLain:

I am writing to request the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education enthusiastically support full funding for two important state-wide programs 1) **Oregon Solutions**, and 2) **Oregon Consensus**, funded as part of the dispute resolution services allocation.

As an Oregon Solutions Convener in the pioneering Wave Energy field; as a Project Manager on both the Oregon Coast Trail and the Butte Falls Community Forest project; and having four years of involvement with the historic Elliott State Research Forest process, I have extensive firsthand experience with Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus and with the tremendous benefits these programs provide in helping to support stakeholder and community-based problem solving. I am a huge advocate for OS and OC alike. I find both as an integral part of “The Oregon Way,” the consensus-based problem solving that Oregon does so well.

These programs are helping to address complicated issues facing our communities and have helped leverage the resources and support of diverse parties.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the state in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. Sometimes these are the most contentious of issues, yet OS and OC are incredibly successful in finding a path forward to (indeed) both solutions and consensus. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

Budgets are tough things, I am well aware, but Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus provide so much benefit to stakeholder-based problem solving in this state that I most emphatically encourage you to fund these two programs fully.

In a world where conflict resolution most often means no resolution and more conflict, Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus are like beacons in the storm, bringing us safely home while delivering the goods.

Sincerely,

Keith Tymchuk

C:

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Senator Suzanne Weber  
Representative Tracy Cramer  
Representative Emily McIntire  
Representative Hoa Nguyen  
Representative Ricki Ruiz