



HEATHER BUCH

Lane County Commissioner
District 5 – East Lane
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April 17, 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 Senator Frederick and Representative McLain:

As Lane County Commissioner and co-convenor of the McKenzie Rebuilds effort, I am writing to express my support for an important statewide public service program at Portland State University: Oregon Solutions, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit this program provides in helping to support community-based problem solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of this program and urge you to restore their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

Oregon Solutions has played a key role in the ongoing recovery of the McKenzie Valley communities devastated by the Holiday Farm Fire. Recovery in the unincorporated areas regulated by special environmental protections with communities still struggling to develop economic viability presented very complex challenges that no one entity or organization had the resources, expertise, or authority to address. Oregon Solutions provided critical framework and support to bring together state agencies, local government, and communities to be able to collectively identify and implement solutions.

The Oregon Solutions program provides important support to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of this program and hope it will continue to be supported.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Heather Buch

C:

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