

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 an intern and a student, I am writing to indicate **my support for two important statewide**, public service programs at Portland State University: **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions and **Oregon Consensus**, part of the Dispute Resolution budget. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide in helping students like me learn the tools for learning the tools for using a collaborative approach to help communities solve problems. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to restore their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

I served as an intern working with these programs for most of the past year. Through that experience, I was able to gain important skills and knowledge that will support my development as a public sector professional. In my internship, I was involved with McKenzie Rebuilds, a collaborative effort to rebuild and recover communities affected by the Holiday Farm Fire, as well as the Oregon Water Resources Department's Integrated Water Resources Strategy update. In the process I learned about interagency collaboration and ways to build public engagement in decision-making, I was fortunate to work with a skilled, professional team that encouraged my growth in terms of contribution and professionalism. Through my internship, I learned the value of a collaborative governance approach in convening and supporting different state agencies, local governments, and community to come together to collectively to implement solutions.

Oregon Consensus and Oregon Solutions are programs that provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions to help people. Less known but still critical, is **the opportunities these programs provide to students for important professional growth opportunities through internships on real projects impacting Oregonians**. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Ruby Mitchell

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Ruby Mitchell

C:

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