

April 16, 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 Executive Director of the Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (SOWIB), I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem solving. 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.

Oregon Solutions was brought in on two different projects SOWIB was involved on this year. The first regarding the restructuring of a STEM hub and the second was around potential community benefit dollars from the sale of offshore wind call areas. On both projects Oregon Solutions was able to organize the stakeholders and facilitate the discussion in a way that allowed everyone to be heard and efficiently reach consensus. This greatly reduced the number of meetings that would have been needed for all.

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. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,



Kyle Stevens
Executive Director

C:

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



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