

4/26/2023

Joint Subcommittee on Education
Higher Education Coordinating Commission
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Committee Members:

My name is Daniel Loomis and I am an Engineering Manager for a local Utility as well as a lifetime resident of Oregon. In my work I am very much concerned and interested in how the climate of our region is changing and how that changing climate will affect utility infrastructure and therefore our customers lives. Similarly, as a resident, I am aware of the changing climate and very much concerned with how that changing climate will affect my community in the years to come.

As a result, I am personally submitting comment in support of the agency requested budget for the Oregon Change Climate Institute (OCCRI) and the sustained funding for the position of state climatologist. In my career, I have had the good fortune to work with OCCRI to better understand how extreme weather events will change in the coming decades. Insights gained in that work will better inform and prepare us as we look to change the way we design and construct our infrastructure in order to be more resilient.

Climate change is not something that is coming. As those who experienced extreme events that have rocked our region over the past 2 years know, it is already here and we should expect it to become more and more frequent. It is not enough to look back at history to plan for the future. We need forward looking models that anticipate what kind of events await us. If we can do that, as a society, we will be able to make much more informed decisions about investments that will meet the challenge and serve all Oregonians. It is my belief that OCCRI is integral to that mission and the modest funding requested is a potential catalyst that will repay itself many times over in the years to come.

I appreciate your consideration.

Daniel R Loomis, P.E.
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