



Co- Chair Lieber, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Debi Ferrer, and I live in The Dalles, Oregon. I am retired after teaching high school biology in The Dalles for 32 years. As a member of the [Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network](#) (COIN) Legislative and Leadership Teams, I am submitting this testimony today on behalf of that organization.

Let's start with two ways to SAVE some money for the state. COIN urges you NOT to fund these two bills for a multitude of reasons, which we have described in separate testimony opposing them both:

- Do not fund or move forward [HB 2410](#) for a “demonstration” nuclear reactor project in Umatilla County to power Google, Amazon, and other data centers. Please! No nuclear power unless the requirements voters enacted in 1980 are met.
- Do not fund or move forward [HB 3103](#) that prioritizes managing Oregon’s public forests for timber harvest above all other values our forests provide.

Instead, we ask you to spend our tax dollars on legislation that improves people’s lives, that lifts them up – things like affordable housing and healthcare, better education, protecting our environment and the safety of our communities.

For our children, we ask you to fully fund:

- [HB 5515](#) and [HB 5516](#) for K-12 education based on the [recommendations from the state's Quality Education Commission](#).
- [HB 3435](#) - Free School Lunch and Breakfast for All Oregon School Children
- [HB 2992](#) – To provide eyeglasses for low income students

For those struggling with hunger, houslessness, and poverty:

- [SB 611](#) – Food for All Oregonians
- [HB 3079](#) - Preventing Youth Homelessness though we understand it may be re-introduced in the Rules committee with a different bill number.
- [HB 2964](#) Affordable Housing Pre-Development Assistance for non-profits such as faith-based organization that are trying to help create more housing for those in need

For community safety and resilience:

- [HB 3170](#) – Community Resilience Hubs need to be fully funded
- [HB 3450](#), [HB 2949](#), and [HB 2152](#) - The package of three bills related to the Critical Energy Infrastructure (or CEI) Hub along the Willamette River. It's long past time to clean that up and protect Oregonians from a potential unimaginable disaster there.

For our migrant community members who face so many hurdles:

- [SB 703](#) - Providing pathways to protection and citizenship
- [SB 149](#) – Long term refugee supports
- [HB 3193](#) - Farm Workers Relief

For justice for the people on whose land we all reside:

- [HB 3198 A](#) – Which directs the OHA to Lead Murdered & Missing Indigenous Persons Efforts

For better health care for all:

- [HB 3497](#) Shared Future Task Force
- And the fabulous package of bills known as Momnibus, particularly [SB 692](#) - Expanding Perinatal Care to Include Doulas and [SB 693](#) - Perinatal Workforce Task Force

And last but not least, for our treasured wildlife and natural resources:

- [HB 2980](#) - Protecting urban wildlife and supporting wildlife rehabilitation centers
- [HB 3143](#) - Landowners Living With Beavers Grant Program (we've been pulling for this bill the last two sessions!)
- [HB 3786](#) - Blue Economy/Vibrant Coastal Communities

We know you have a tough job ahead of you and we've got a long list, but each of these bills represents values shared by our network of Indivisible groups throughout Oregon. These are all bills that will help Oregonians live better lives. When we lift each other up, Oregonians all win.

Thank you for your service.

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