



May 10, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St., NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 5531 Letter of Support for Heart of Oregon Corps. Request for State Funding

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Nosse and members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction

I would like to share my enthusiastic support for Heart of Oregon Corps. (HOC) Central Campus request for \$1M. The HOC Central Campus will deliver youth pre-apprenticeship job training in the trades, helping with the workforce housing crisis and job training in wildland firefighting, helping with the wildfire crisis.

As the Director of Redmond Economic Development Inc. (REDI), I have a keen interest in the new campus that will be moving HOC's headquarters to Redmond, OR. REDI is a private, non-profit corporation established in 1987 as a partnership between private business and the public sector to encourage economic development in the City of Redmond. REDI's Mission is to create prosperity through community and business development.

This critical growth project for HOC aligns deeply with the type of exciting growth REDI works to create in our community. HOC has presented to our Board of Director's about this project, which includes many prominent Redmond leaders and business owners, which has led to further conversations for support and partnership throughout the community.

HOC is also a critical partner to the business community of Redmond, and throughout Central Oregon, working with youth to engage them in workforce development that not only prepares them individually for the workforce, but HOC program also actively works on community improvement projects throughout the region: building homes, clearing trails, providing childcare, and much more.

I encourage your support of Heart of Oregon Corps Central Campus request for \$1M. Our community will greatly benefit from this new campus for many years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Curley", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steven R. Curley, Director
Redmond Economic Development, Inc.