



Joint Ways and Means Committee

Public Testimony

April 24, 2015

Good evening Chair Buckley, Chair Devlin, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Joanna Williams and I run the SUDS (Substance Use Disorder) Outpatient Treatment Program at Klamath Basin Behavioral Health. I am writing in support of continued SPArC funding.

As a CADC II certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, I can attest to the importance of tobacco prevention and cessation. Around seventy five percent of those with addictions and/or mental illness smoke. They are dying an average of twenty five years earlier compared with the general population. Too often I hear from my client's that stopping smoking is not their main focus right now as they are dealing with bigger problems. While that is understandable, that mindset only perpetuates this disparity. Research shows that individuals who address tobacco addiction while in recovery from other substances are more likely to sustain their recovery, which is why this partnership is so important.

SPArC funding has allowed Klamath County Public Health to partner with KBBH, which has increased our capacity to integrate tobacco prevention and education into our work. We are working towards a sustainable tobacco cessation component to our mental health services, work that will greatly slow if funding is not sustained.

I am currently working with five client's who are trying to quit smoking. One of these client's main motivations to stop smoking is that she has fallen asleep twice while smoking and each time woke up to a burned pillow. Since I have announced the addition of smoking cessation group to our SUDS Outpatient Treatment Program, I have eight other client's who have expressed a desire to attend this group. When I total the number of children and grandchildren these client's have, the number is 30! The continued SPArC funding will not just affect these 13 client's, but also the lives of their 30 children and grandchildren. What an exciting example of how far these funding dollars will go.

We have made great strides toward health equity for our client's progress that will surely continue if SPArC funding is renewed. I urge you to support public health, as they are strong partners who collaborate for the improvement of the community. On behalf of Klamath Basin Behavioral Health, I thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.

Sincerely,

Joanna Williams, CADC II
Alcohol and Drug Counselor
SUDS Department, KBBH
(541) 891-0106
jwilliams@kbbh.org



Lake County School District No. 7

District Motto: "Everything we do, we do in the best interest of students"

4/24/2015

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Ways and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Honorable Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

I would like to bring your to attention to HB 5017 which funds K-12 schools at \$7.255B. After years of enduring cuts through the recent economic recession, our school district was actually able to start the healing process by starting to build back lost positions and programs for the 2014-15 school year. According to state budget estimates, Lake County School District #7 (LCSD#7) would lose \$183 per student if HB 5017 were to pass. Our district finds this funding level unacceptable, especially when state revenue is heading in a positive direction. The potential impact that HB 5017 would have on our school district feels like we are still in the recession.

The potential loss under HB 5017 would be devastating to our school district, programs, and staffing; that I am afraid would take away the spirit behind achieving incredible demographics for our district. LCSD#7 is very proud of the current graduation rates (see below), and drop out rates hover just above zero percent if not often times meeting the zero percent mark. The spirit behind achieving these types of outcomes requires a certain level of basic resources and drive. I am afraid that any further cuts to our already damaged system would create irreversible outcomes that would seriously jeopardize our ability to do everything we can in the best interest of our students.

2013-14 Graduation Rates		
	Four Year Cohort	Five Year Completer
Oregon	68.70%	81.50%
LHS	81.40%	98.30%

Thank you for your time and your representation of our rural areas. Our district motto at the top of this letterhead represents our dedication to our students. HB 5017 is not in the best interest of our students, our staff, or our community. Please assist us in finding adequate funding for our public K-12 schools.

Sincerely,

Sean Gallagher
LCSD#7 Superintendent



Superintendent

Inspiring Today's Students To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

10501 Washburn Way • Klamath Falls, OR 97603 • 541-883-5000 • FAX 541-883-6677

April 22, 2015

Senator Doug Whitsett
900 Court St. NE, S-303
Salem, OR 97301

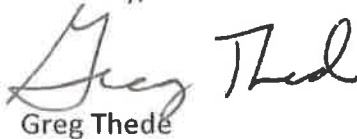
Dear Senator Whitsett:

As Superintendent of Klamath County School District, I strongly urge you to support SB439, to make Outdoor School possible for all Oregon 5th or 6th graders. Many of our KCSD 6th graders currently attend Outdoor School, but only through great effort on the part of teachers and parents, writing grants and raising the funds for their students to attend. Many other classes in this district do not have this opportunity due to the lack of funds.

I have seen the very positive difference that Outdoor School makes in students' relationships with their peers and their teachers, and their attitudes toward school and their natural environment. All Oregon students deserve the opportunity for this impactful experience. It should not be reserved for the fortunate few. Outdoor School is good for children, and it's good for Oregon.

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,



Greg Thede
KCSD Superintendent



Shasta Elementary School
Home of the Scorpions

Inspiring Today's Students To Meet Tomorrow's Challenges

1951 Madison • Klamath Falls, OR 97603 • 541-883-5060

To: Sen. Doug Whitsett and Rep. Gail Whitsett
From: David Wehr, principal of Shasta Elementary, Klamath Falls, Or
Re: outdoor school for all

Dear Whitsetts,

I was so encouraged to hear about the outdoor school bill. One of the most important events that our sixth-graders experience each year is the trip they make to outdoor school. The experience is of course tremendous academically, but the most important elements go far beyond reading, writing, and arithmetic. The elements of problem-solving, confidence building, understanding of the environment, and a greater view of how education can impact their own future is amazing.

Most importantly this program impacts the students who need it the most. Over 30% of our own students here in Klamath Falls have not been to Crater Lake National Park only 60 miles away. These are the students who are impacted by outdoor school. These are the students who are impoverished, whom never leave their poor neighborhoods, who desperately need a view of the greater world to get them out of the cycle of poverty.

So I give this bill my strongest endorsement.

April 23, 2015

Oregon Legislature
Re: Funding for Outdoor School

To Whom It May Concern,

I am stressing the importance of funding outdoor school for all sixth grade students in Oregon. I have attended outdoor school for seven years as a teacher. Each year I have a handful of students who financially cannot afford to make the trip. These students are usually the ones that would benefit the most for a hands-on minds-on experience. Some students have never been more than a few miles from their home, and this might be their first opportunity to experience travel.

Fundraising is very difficult due to communities always hit by different organizations trying to fund other projects. Teachers have spent countless hours trying to find outside sources to sponsor children who cannot afford the opportunity. The price of transportation and other factors are causing outdoor schools to raise their prices. Our school was forced to a four day program due to such low numbers last year due to cost.

Students' growth after outdoor school is significant due to their renewed interest in education from this experience. They also gain a better understanding of the physical characteristics of this great state. I urge you to make this opportunity available to all sixth graders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Ross".

Michael Ross
6th grade teacher Shasta Elementary

PELICAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

501 McLean Street • Klamath Falls, OR. 97601

(541) 883-4765 • Fax: (541) 883-4729

School Website: www.kfalls.k12.or.us/Schools/pelican.asp

Tony Swan, Principal

April 23, 2015

Dear Klamath Falls Way and Means Committee:

I am writing to ask your support of the Outdoor School for All Oregon Student Bill, HB 2648 and SB 439.

As an elementary school principal, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that 5th and 6th grade students receive by attending Outdoor School. The benefits of receiving outdoor education is outstanding: increased confidence, advanced understanding of outdoor habitat and science, learned group leadership skills, and building a personal connection to our great state of Oregon!

I recall my own outdoor school experience when I was a sixth grader living in Colorado. My vivid memories still influence me nearly 45 years later: sharing a bunk house with fellow students, nervous about being away from home for the first time, climbing through a rope obstacle course, conducting science experiments, navigating an orienteering course, and writing in a nature journal in the rain under a huge pine tree. There are not many other meaningful school experiences that can rival that kind of positive impact.

Now, as an Oregon public school principal, I strongly support every opportunity we can give children to benefit from Outdoor School themselves. Too many students, especially those living in poorer communities like Klamath Falls, will not experience these benefits because it is financially out of reach to them. The burden of fundraising several hundred dollars per child is prohibitive and not realistic. School district budgets are already squeezed tight, and unfortunately rarely include the costs to send their students to a full week of Outdoor School.

I hope you can support Outdoor School and help secure significant and lasting funding in the legislature so *all our youth* can access one of the most valuable learning experiences they can achieve in their K-12 education. With your support and leadership, this is a realistic possibility!

Thank you for your time, concern, and advocacy for Oregon students.

Sincerely,

Tony Swan, Principal

Kerry L. Farris
5708 Bel Aire Dr.
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

23 April 2015

Representative Gail Whitsett
900 Court St. NE, H-474
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Rep. Whitsett:

I'm writing to share with you an opportunity you have to enrich the educational lives of all Oregon's children. Senate Bill 439 and House Bill 2648 will establish a state Outdoor Education Fund that would ensure attendance for every Oregon 5th or 6th grader at a residential outdoor school. Every one. No matter what their economic status, or the particular motivation of their individual teacher in raising funds. In this way, each child will receive the unique, enriching, and life-changing experience that outdoor school provides.

I was fortunate enough to attend outdoor school both in 6th grade and again in 10th grade. Both sessions had great impacts on my life. Sixth grade camp was my first time away from home. I bonded with friends and tested my self-sufficiency. I also discovered that I really enjoyed being outside in the woods and learning about my environment. During the camp week, my interest in biology was piqued and there was no looking back. Later, in the 10th grade outdoor school, I learned much more advanced biology and ecology skills, explored the mountains and rivers in more depth, and spent a night solo in a handmade shelter. This experience was very transformative and shaped the person I am today. I ended up pursuing two natural resources degrees and working for both private industry and the U.S. Forest Service.

I feel that every child should have an opportunity for learning outside the classroom to explore their potential for natural sciences like forestry, fisheries, wildlife, and ecology. Outdoor school offers a unique blend of hands on science with social learning and life skills that enrich children's lives in ways they never forget.

Please, support SB 439 and HB 2648 and make outdoor school for ALL Oregon children a reality!

Sincerely,



Kerry L. Farris

April 22, 2015

Oregon Legislature

Re: Funding for Outdoor School

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to support funding for Outdoor School. Both of my children were able to attend this program when they were in sixth grade, in 2006 and 2007! This was my daughters first time to go to a function away from home, without either my husband or I present. I feel that they gained valuable experience, independence, and bonding with their peers. I can remember the girls crying when they left, because they were afraid to go away without us, but upon their return they were crying because they didn't want to leave camp Westwind.

As the years passed by, I became employed at Shasta Elementary and could see that several of the students were unable to afford the cost to attend Outdoor school. My husband and I would fund one or two students allowing them to go, while the teachers would let the student "work" at the school to earn "this" money for their trip. These same students had often never even been to the coast, seen a beach, or had a "vacation" of any kind. This was somewhat of a luxury to them. They were so proud to be able to go with their class and loved the experience of seeing the ocean, beaches, and talked about it for weeks afterwards.

I would urge you to make this opportunity available for all students. They gain appreciation for the beautiful state we live in, and ultimately develop an appreciation for maintaining places like this in the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Severson".

Terri Severson

To whom it concerns:

There has never been a more important time for kids to have access to outdoor education. Children face a dynamic and changing world full of challenging decisions. The self-confidence, intuition, and fundamental understanding that comes from strong experiential outdoor education programs, especially those founded in scientific inquiry, are critical for children today. As an assistant professor in the Environmental Sciences I deeply support SB 439 and HB 2648.

The ability to observe the natural world around us, ask meaningful questions about the diversity of environments and ecosystems we experience, and design observations and experiments to explore hypotheses and find answers are essential skills for students in many disciplines. After 10 years teach university students at three universities in as many states, my best students – those that ask thoughtful questions, inspire discussion, and excel academically – almost unfailingly have confidence, depth, and maturity that they gained from early programs in outdoor education.

The Klamath Basin, Oregon, the U.S., and indeed the world face a significant and complex range of environmental challenges, including food and water security, biodiversity loss, emerging diseases, pollution, and environmental and climate change. Finding solutions will require novel ideas. It will require new generations of students and leaders who understand the environment and can make clear decisions, take informed actions, based on sound science.

I grew up exploring the forests, rivers, and mountains surrounding my rural Appalachian home town of less than 300 souls. My father was a high school biology and chemistry teacher. I am certain that I would not be where I am today without the experiential education he gave me every day as we hiked and camped and explored. But I was lucky. My school offered no outdoor science programs. Most kids I grew up with were not as lucky as me. Most did not attend college. Most did not have the opportunities that I have had. I want these opportunities for all children. Klamath Falls is a rural community in one of the most beautiful parts of the world.

Let's all of us commit to support our children and their futures by giving them the opportunity to have outdoor education. Support SB 439 and HB 2648.

Sincerely,

Jherime L. Kellermann
Assistant Professor
Environmental Sciences Dept.
Oregon Tech

1071 Cedar Ridge Rd.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

April 23, 2015

Dear Legislators:

What's your favorite memory from an Outdoor School that you attended as a child? Mine is digging clay up from a stream and making it into an object and learning how to hypnotize a bird so it can be tagged. That was almost forty years ago. Attending Outdoor School instilled a real love and deep connection to nature for me.

Unfortunately, I came from a broken home in the 1970's and sadly what was rare then is almost epidemic now. Attending Outdoor School gave me skills, confidence, and a connection with my classmates that helped me cope with my stress at home. I learned to turn to nature and away from drugs and alcohol.

I have been a Forest Science Facilitator (grades pre-K through 8) with Talk About Trees covering Klamath and Lake Counties for fourteen years. I see several thousand students each year. I have experienced first-hand the transformation a child goes through when they are outdoors in nature. I urge you to support the current bills that will enable EVERY Oregon 5th or 6th grader to attend an Outdoor School.

Thank you for your support!

Lisa Kochenderfer

Why “Outdoor School for All” 5th or 6th graders is important to me:

Why is outdoor school for 5th or 6th graders important to me? I was in 5th grade when I attended my first overnight, outdoor “Nature Camp” – electrifying my senses in a way that no “in-class” schooling ever did! That first night, we went on an owl walk – hiking silently down a dirt trail into the dark woods. Our trip leader was noted ornithologist Chan Robbins, who began calling owls, cupping his hands over his mouth, imitating the whistling notes of a Screech Owl. Before long his calls were answered by real owls! We were totally mesmerized. That night is seared into my memory as one of the greatest moments of my life. Something had seized my Soul. My world expanded incrementally, and I vividly remember the exhilarating freedom of connecting to the “natural world.”

Why outdoor school in 5th and 6th grade? It plunges kids into an exciting realm, at a time when their enthusiasm is still high and their senses are wide open. For many, it is their first time away from home, parents, friends, siblings, pets, TV, and all familiar activities within their comfort zone. Outdoor school opens the world much wider! It definitely goes way beyond classroom learning. It’s a place where teachers and kids are on the same playing field. Down on hands and knees together – side by side, and nose to nose – peering at water striders darting like bumper cars atop a pond. Or, ... perched on earthy bark-covered logs encircling an evening campfire, telling stories, singing songs, and learning about the night sky. Or, ... with nets in hand, chasing through entrancing fields of wildflowers sparkling with dancing butterflies. Such are the delights of new discoveries, and the joy of outdoor learning!

Certainly my 5th grade outdoor experience has had an impact on me! And I am proud that I have been able to help pass on that spirit to the next generations. I helped to create a “Community Nature Center” in Mississippi; and while in Klamath Falls, Oregon – I have helped get grant funding for several projects to enhance the downtown Wingwatcher’s Nature Trail; I did collaborative work with state and federal agencies, as well as community nonprofits and private citizens to create our annual “International Migratory Bird Day Festival” - an outdoor, free, family educational event now in its 16th year; and I instigated a community “Pelicans on Parade” art project – where local artists decorated over a dozen, 7-foot-high, pelicans to help focus attention on the beauty of Nature in the Klamath Basin.

Thus, outdoor school has made an impact on me – leading me to appreciate the beauty of nature, the complex interactions of all creatures in this “web of life,” and the importance of mankind realizing that the world must balance man’s needs with those of other creatures. From that perspective, I have lived 65 years of my life, and I still vividly recall that first night with Chan Robbins – as a 5th grader at Outdoor School!

I heartily thank the passionate teachers who have inspired, and who continue to inspire outdoor learning in our youth. It is one of the greatest GIFTS of Love. And our Mother Earth needs more hugs.

Kathy Larson
Klamath Falls, Oregon

April 23, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I am a former outdoor school student, a former outdoor school educator, and currently in the process of gaining licensure to teach middle/high biology.

The exploration, inquiry, and adventure that I was fortunate enough to experience as a 6th grade student at Camp Westwind (Lincoln City, Oregon) set the pace for who I am today: it encouraged me to seek all kinds of outdoor adventures for travel, research, and recreation, and to revere and not fear nature. I have seen hundreds of students bloom and flourish outside. **Students make valuable connections to their world, their resources, and their community when they bond together at outdoor school settings.**

I do not know that I would be as enthusiastic and interested in science and nature if I had not been exposed to the wonders of the coast through outdoor school almost 20 years ago.

The state of Oregon has an incredibly diverse and beautiful landscape. Providing students with an immersive experience in that wilderness can benefit them on multiple levels. Not only do students tend to improve their scientific literacy while attending outdoor school, they **gain irreplaceable social skills and awareness of self and of others**. For students with various socioeconomic backgrounds, cultures, and homelives, outdoor school can be a life-altering event; connecting students with their peers and their universe. I have seen countless students come out of their shell at outdoor school while gaining confidence, friends, and appreciation for things great and small.

I do not deny that outdoor school facilities and events take time, money, quality people, and good coordination. The benefit of these things coming together, however, becomes something magical and irreplaceable in a young person's bank of experiences, and is currently one of the most neglected fields in education. **Students who have amazing experiences at outdoor school can be inspired to write, hike, read, engineer, etc.** - this experience is not limited to exposure to science.

Outdoor school is about exposure to life.

As students continue to disconnect from their peers through social media, smart phones, and other technologies (even though these things can be wonderful tools to learn,) **outdoor school gives students a chance to explore, care, and connect on a crucial human level.**

I hope to see outdoor school and environmental literacy continue to blossom as more people value their experiences and reliance on nature. Mental and physical health are improved by outdoor experiences, and in an era when many students struggle with various aspects of health, I believe it would behoove all Oregonians if we take one more step towards a healthier self and a healthier society.

Thanks for considering making outdoor school more accessible to all individuals.

-Marlena McPherson

Former Outdoor Educator/Future School Teacher

Henley High School
Klamath Falls, OR 97603

April 21, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

As a biology teacher and parent, I feel it necessary to express my strong support of Outdoor School. My high school students are very influenced by their outdoor experiences. Students entering our school that have been to outdoor school are more likely to enroll in difficult science classes such as our Field Biology and Aquatic Biology courses.

More and more kids are relying on technology, which I feel is a good thing. When this can be combined with actual field experiences, students get turned on to how sciences are relevant to their world.

My high school students have participated in activities involving elementary kids in Outdoor School. Because of this, I have observed Outdoor School at Lincoln City and feel like this is an incredible opportunity for young kids to get excited about science.

I have also had many former Outdoor School students in my high school science classes. These kids are very eager to share their experiences with me and I feel it is significant that they want to communicate this with a teacher at the high school.

In conclusion, I truly believe that every kid should have this opportunity regardless of where they go to school or what their economic status is. Right now, you have an incredible opportunity to impact the lives of Oregon students by supporting the Outdoor School bills.

Sincerely,

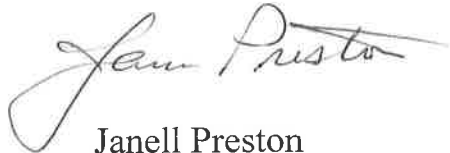
Chuck Shannon

April 24, 2015

Dear Lawmaker,

As an educator and administrator, I have witnessed first-hand the educational benefits for students when they participate in Outdoor School. Outdoor School education is the ultimate learning experience; providing students with engaging, hands-on, inquiry learning about ecology, wildlife and conservation. Often students who struggle in the everyday classroom environment, thrive during these experiences. Funding is frequently the issue that prevents students/classrooms from participating in Outdoor School opportunities. By providing a source of funding, you would be increasing the learning opportunity for every Oregon student.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janell Preston". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Janell Preston

Oregon school administrator and parent

Dear Lawmakers,

Forty seven years ago I went to Outdoor School. Camp Arrawanna near Mt Hood. First day, I fell off a deck and broke my arm. Went to the hospital and they told me I would have to miss the rest of camp.

If I could use the energy I used then to talk them into letting me go back I would have no concerns about knowing that this way overdue bill would be passed. Yes, they ended taking me back.

Forty four years ago I went as a counselor for the first time. Ended up going eight times while in High School. The summer of my Sophomore year, I took my first paid job in the Outdoor Education Field. To this date every working position I have had has been related to that one week experience. I have been part of Outdoor Education programs on 4 continents. Taught pre-school to college and adult senior programs. The community experience learned there has stayed with me. When I gather with high school era friends, Outdoor School is always discussed, as to how it affected our lives.

I am proud to be in the generation of Oregonians that I am because I have this common experience that so molded my and most of my friends in what we did and supported in our future lives. My thanks for taking the time to read this letter and to think about moving HB 2648 and SB 436 out of committee with funding so that it can support connecting kids with nature, their community and being an Oregonian!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lewis Hunt', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lewis Hunt

541-660-4222

April 24, 2015

As a 6th grade teacher I have taken my class to Outdoor School. Outdoor School is an environment that provides students with engaging hands-on science activities and inquiry learning about various environments, and wildlife. Often students who struggle in the classroom thrive during Outdoor School. Although Outdoor School is a valuable experience, many students will never get an opportunity to attend because of the cost. Funding is an issue for most schools and parents. Unless the teacher and students are willing to do extensive fundraising, Outdoor School is not an option. By providing a source of funding, you would be increasing the learning opportunity for every Oregon Student.

Suzette Nieraeth
Henley Elementary
6th Grade Teacher
(541)883-5038

Dear Lawmakers

I think that everyone should get to go to outdoor school because its a good way to learn and connect with nature learn new thing about the world that you didnt know. Have fun while learning. Some kids dont get to go because there parents can't pay for it and when other kids get back the kids that didnt go feel left out. When my brother went he learned so much new things that he wished he could go back. Some kids dont know that much about trees and nature and outdoor school could really help them learn.

Sincerely,

Rosa Cruz

Dear, Oregon Legislature

Out door school is important to me because I will get to meet new people and actually see what I'm learning. I think all kids should be able to go to out door school because kids don't want to sit and wish they could go there but with out door school you get a real hands on experience. Some kids haven't even been to the ocean or forest.

Sincerely,
Landon.

Delana
4/23/15

Dear Oregon Lawmakers

I want to go to out door school
because I can learn new things about
animals, plants, and some trees.
Some kids don't get to these kinds of
things so I hope everyone gets to go
and teachers are telling us about
last year it really sounds fun I am
glad I get to go.

I am glad that we can
walk on the beach stay in cabins
go to many places see different animals
I hope I will have fun.

Dear Oregon Legislature,

I think that all students should go to outdoor because some kids don't have enough money to pay for it. Some people never been to a beach or have seen sea creatures or even a tide pool. Outdoor school sounds like a lot of fun and it's not fair that people who can afford it get to go but the people who can't stay at school. I really want my little to go and experience it because I will be going to 7th grade next and this year is almost over and I may not be going because my mom doesn't have enough money and this only happens once. I don't want my to go through with that again.

Respectfully your

Myna Lossing

Dear Oregon Legislature

I would just like to inform you guys that Outdoor school seems so fun but my family does not have enough money to afford Outdoor school. And that a lot of money for a field trip you probably agree right? And that's why me and my class want to make a difference. Just like Rosa Parks. So maybe in that big big hearts of yours you can allow that to happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sydney Dominguez

4/21/15

Dear Oregon Lawmakers the topic I would like to talk to you about is every student should be able to go to outdoor school. If a student was able to go to outdoor school they would have something happen to them and when I say something I mean the way they see things in life. I know from experience about wanting to go because I am not able to go. A lot of kids miss out on an opportunity like this alot, most of the time they are not able to pay or keep their grades up. This reminds me of something I read "a fifteen year old boy could not get a heart transplant because his grades were low and that he would die in six months." Well if someones grades are low that shouldn't mean that they can't go somewhere or get something that can help them.

I agree that students should have to do something to be able to do something. If a student has bad grades and can't go on a field trip then give them a project to do so they can work for it. If kids are learning about things at outdoor school then why is it any different then starbase. If all you had to do was sign a sheet then shouldn't it be the same now. In starbase you are learning and it cost no money but this time it cost money for learning.

Every child deserves to go and learn about the outside world. Once you get a chance to learn about the outside world most of us won't want to stop learning about it. Students need time to learn about creatures if they don't then they may not want to learn about them when they are older.

Sincerely, Destiny

Dear Oregon lawmakers,

Outdoor school is important because we will learn outdoor survival. Also learn about life. We might not be able to see in the city. It gives us kids some things to learn about. Not that we don't learn in school we don't learn about nature. Nature is my favorite subject. I look forward to coming to Outdoor school.

sincerely,

Seth Elliott

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

Outdoor school is important to me because I want to learn the experience of going to the ocean and learning new things. In my opinion not all kids should get the experience. I think if the kids have a referral they shouldn't be eligible to go. But the kids who are eligible to go should go because maybe it would influence the kids that if they aren't bad maybe they could do a lot more. Something I wanna learn at outdoor school is how to dissect a squid and learn the body parts of a squid.

Kind regards,

Kaitlin Hanson

4/21/15

Dear Oregon law maker, I think every sixth grader at Shasta Elementary school should get to go to outdoor school because some of us don't have enough money to pay for outdoor school and it would be nice to touch what we're learning about because if we are just learning about it we really don't want to learn about it. And we would meet new people. And it would give us an opportunity to get a break from school but still learn — about new things

Sincerely, Breanna

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

James

Wouldn't it be amazing if the entire ~~sixth grade~~ ^{6th grade} got to go to Outdoor School? I think that would be probably the best trip, considering my class is in 6th grade.

Outdoor School would be very special this year because all of the ~~6th grade~~ ^{5th grade} classes from different schools would come together so we could meet people and spend more time together. Also, we could spend more time outside.

All kids should be able to experience this awesome adventure. Some kids might not be able to afford the fee, and this is a one time offer. Say a 5th grader goes into sixth and is really happy to go, but he can't ~~pay~~ the fee. Imagine how sad he would be.

Some things I would like to learn about while I'm there is nature. I think that would be fun.

These are my reasons the entire sixth grade should go.

Respectfully,
James

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

All kids should be able to attend outdoor school in Oregon. Some kids my age can't afford outdoor school, and it would be nice if you helped them out. Kids deserve a time to have fun and play outdoors.

When I get to outdoor school I can't wait to look at tidepools and cool animals. When kids can't afford outdoor school they can't see tidepools or other cool animals. Outdoor school is important to me because I will meet new people and I will get to learn outdoors instead of being cooped up in a classroom all day. Kids need to get outside more often.

Kids should get to experience outdoor school because it provides many opportunities like getting to see a whole lot of different marine life. Kids get bored during the day outdoor school can help kids be active and be able to enjoy the outdoors.

Sincerely,

Alex Hayden

Dear Oregon lawmakers

I would like to share why outdoor school is important because it tells how the wild life in the ocean lives. It will teach us how to meet new people by making us live with people from other schools.

Reasons why it could help kids who have never been to the beach have this experience. Also some kids are poor and can't afford to go so why punish a kid who has the requirements besides a couple goggles and lifelines. Please this could be the only time where kids can bond with another kid and make friends.

Sincerely, Myala Dobie

April 23, 2015

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

I want to go to Outdoor School because I will be able to get away from home and learn outdoors instead of in a classroom. Some kids have never been away from home for more than a couple nights. This way, kids will learn to be independent and be away from their parents and siblings. Also, we get to see the ocean and see all sorts of wildlife. We will have cabin mates and interact with other schools. Outdoor school will be very fun and I can't wait to go!

Sincerely,

Tyler Laitinen

Dear Oregon Legislature,

All kids should be able to go to Outdoor School. Younger kids and kids my age are always talking about how excited they are to go to Outdoor School.

When you go to Outdoor School you're outside all day exploring and learning. Some people love being outside and it will be a great opportunity for them to be outside and enjoying learning. Even if some kids don't like the outdoors they can have a chance to love being outside and having fun. At Outdoor School you get to do hands on things like getting to go and look at the tidepools, walk around the woods or possibly dig around in the sand!

While I'm at Outdoor School I can't wait to be able to meet new people. We will be able to talk and get to know each other. Also we get to sleep in a cabin with your friends. When we are all at Outdoor School we're getting the chance to get used to being away from family. It's not the kid's fault if their parents don't make a good amount of money.

Sincerely,
Leri Dolan

Dear Oregon Lawmakers or Oregon
Legislature. outdoor school should be free
for everyone. If outdoor school is free it will
give the kids an opportunity to learn on perspective.
Some kids may be scared of the woods. If they
go to outdoor school they will probably get over their fear.
All I'm trying to say is that outdoor school should
be for every body it's a one in a life time
going would be some body's dream. I think all kids get
to go.

Sincerely Caden Whitlock

Dear, Oregon lawmaker

Peyton
4-23-15

Wouldn't it be awesome if the whole class would get to go to outdoor school because its school but you get to be outside by the ocean looking at animals fish in tide pools. some people don't have enough money for outdoor school, so its not fair to either people

sincerely, Peyton wright

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

Outdoor School is important to me because it is a good time to get out of the classroom and have a good hands-on experience. In class we don't do much on science and Marine Biology and when we do it's all or mostly in a book. Also it is a memorable, educating experience.

I think Outdoor School would be a great experience for all students because it can teach students about Marine Biology and many other things Outdoor School has to offer. However as a student who achieves both academically and behaviorally, I feel that only students who have meet "pre-set standard should be gauranteed the ability to go to Outdoor School. The pre-set standard encourages the best possible outcome for students faculty and teachers involved.

4/21/15

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

I am a student who has good grades and is eligible to attend Outdoor school, however I may not be able to attend because my family is in a predicament in which we do not have enough money to attend. I and many others find it unfair that students who have worked hard to get good grades so that they may attend outdoor school but cannot because of the cost.

Outdoor school is a life changing experience. I have not yet gone but when I asked my 8th grade brother about his experience, his whole face lit up and he told me about its benefits and how it changed his life.

Some of the benefits of Outdoor school is that it's hands on science. For 5 days a week kids have to sit and read about science and study for tests. Kids want to get active, going to outdoor school allows them that. Also kids would do better on science tests if they could

Dear Oregon Legislatures,

4-23-15

Outdoorschool is important to me because it is a fun place to learn about tide pools, marine animals, insects, and the environment, and I would like to go because, my mother, and my sister both went when they were in sixth grade also. All kinds of kids should experience Outdoor school because it is a fun learning experience, and you can learn new things, and you can also make friends. I

I would like to learn about Marine biology, it is an interesting subject to learn, seeing how animals in the sea

Dear Oregon Lawmakers

Outdoor School is important because you get to be face to face with different species and independent because you don't have your parents there. You can also have fun with your friends. Some people have never seen the ocean. And it's unfair that some kids can't go because they don't have money and can't go. I also think that kids will love learning about tidepools. Plus it still is school but it is a lot cooler than regular school.

Sincerely
Chase

Dear Oregon Legislature

Outdoor school is important to me because I will get to learn new stuff. Kids should get experience at outdoor school so they can learn fun stuff and get to learn about stuff from the ocean. I think outdoor school will be fun it will be fun learning how and where it came from learning about the ocean and nature. Outdoor school will help me be more around to nature because you will get to see life in the trees and in the tide pools. You will get to learn where all the stuff came from and how it got there. I think in outdoor school I will learn about the ocean and the tide pools and the woods like plants flowers that grow there. It will be fun to learn about all the stuff and animals that live in the forest and about the foot tracks that animals have left and learn about the bugs that are in the woods.

From Isabel

Donahny

april-21-15

Dear, Oregon Lawmakers

Outdoor School should be an opportunity for all kids because kids will learn a lot more at Outdoor School, like you could see new thing and new animals then just reading it in a book or looking it up on the internet.

Going to Outdoor School is a once in a life time experience, its a place were kids could meet new people, and learn more about ocean life. Its a fun place to go and you do fun stuff outside.

Sincerely,

Donahny Vazquez Zendejas

Dear Oregon Legislature,

Jayden

I think all boys and girls should be allowed to go to outdoor school. Because this is a once in a lifetime thing. And it will be a fun way of learning. We won't be stuck in the classroom doing the same work everyday.

And students will get fresh air and experience new things. This will make kids want to learn because they can see and feel the things they are learning about. This can make kids excited because they are outdoors having fun and learning at the same time.

Sincerely, Jayden

out door school
action steps
+
timeline for success

4-23-15

Thursday.

Dear, oregon legislature

all kids should get the experience of
ods. I've wanted to go to ods
since first grade. my sister loved it,
you get to build friendships and fun.

Some kids don't get to go. my family
can't afford. I've been saving the money,
just because we don't have a good
attitude or the fact weren't rich doesn't
mean it should hurt our education. I
have big plans for my life, and
I won't stop now. I'm hopefully going
to ods.

So people can't go to ods. They
miss a good lesson. They miss a opportunity.

Sincerely,

Shi Holden

6th grader

Thank you

Dear Oregon Lawmakers, Outdoor School is very important to me because I think it will be a fun week for everyone. Also you get to meet new people from other schools. It is an once in a lifetime thing.

All kids should be able to experience Outdoor School because some students have never been to the ocean before. So they can find out what it is really like. Students can learn more and experience some animals they have never seen in real life before.

In Outdoor School I think I will learn way more stuff than in class because you can actually see real stuff and you can touch them and see how they are instead of just watching a video in class.

Sincerley,
Baylah

Dear Oregon Legislature,

I think going to Outdoor School is important. I think it is important because it's a once in a lifetime deal, because you can't experience all the wildlife in the tidepools, if you sit at school all day. Our teachers can't bring Shrimp, Mussels, etc. for all of the 6th graders!

I think all kids should be able to go to Outdoor School because if you have never been to the ocean it could be a first. Also kids could learn about the wildlife that lives in tidepools.

I am excited about going to Outdoor School because i've never seen tidepools before! I really hope that next year all the new 6th graders will get to go for free!

Sincerely,

Krystin
Coffman

Dear Oregon Legislature,

Outdoor School is important to me because it is a once in a lifetime experience. If a student meets the expectations for going to Outdoor School, but can't afford it, then the school should pay for it. It's not fair if they don't.

At Outdoor School, kids will experience meeting new people. An important quality for people to have is to be able to go up to someone they don't know and work with them. There will be kids from other schools at Outdoor School, so we will have to do this.

I hope you consider paying for all 6th graders to go to Outdoor School.

Respectfully,
Grace Nyseth

Outdoor School

Dear Oregon Legislature,

Outdoor School would be impactful for kids because, Students would learn more if they were able to feel and see what they learn they would be able to understand it more. It would be a once in A life time experience. Some Students have probably not even gone to the Coast if they were to go to Outdoor School they would be able to experience the coast. Students would be able to meet new people and make new friends. My brother and Sister went to Outdoor School they said it was fun and they would want to go again. Also some Families can't afford to pay for Outdoor School. Just because A family can't pay it doesn't mean that that Student should not be able to not go to outdoor school while his/her friends are at outdoor school having fun. That is why I think Outdoor School should be Free.

Sincerely,

Natalia H.

4-21-15

Outdoor school is important to me because you get to have fun. You learn new stuff and go by the ocean.

All kids should get to experience outdoor school. So they can learn new stuff and hangout and work by the ocean. I think it would be a good experience for everyone!

Sincerely Hagen

4-9-15

Dear Oregon lawmakers I'm happy
to write to you guys At outdoor
School you guys are so cool
to let us go.

Outdoor school is important to
me because I love the outdoors
people get to see the ocean and meet
new people.

Kids should get an opportunity
to experience the outdoors
they can't hang out with there parents
forever If people don't get exercise
they will run and explore the
wilderness.

I hope you enjoy my letter
I love d outdoor school last
year so thats why outdoor school means
alot to me and my family
And thanks for asking for my
opinion.

Sincerely,

To Jordan
Blossky

THANKS!!!
TO ALL People.

Dear Oregon lawmakers,

I think you should fund 6th grade Outdoor School for free, for all kids, because some kids can't afford to pay the fee. Also, it's not fair for kids who can't get the supplies too, because they stay at school while other students go and have fun. Why outdoor school is important is that kids will get new experiences, such as learning a new species that you didn't know yet, or making new friends while your there.

6th graders should get to go and have fun while there. This is a once in a life time thing for students.

If you let all 6th graders go there will be more cabins in use. When one of my sibling's went, there were less students there, so they only stayed for 3 days. If all 6th graders go there will be more fun, and it will be more fair with students.

When I go to outdoor school im looking forward to seeing the ocean and seeing new animals, and learning new things. This trip should be shared for all 6th graders

Sincerely,
Mckenna.

Dear Oregon lawmakers,

I think you should fund 6th graders for Outdoor School, because it will help kids learn more about nature. They won't be on tablets and phones all day long. Kids are not supposed to sit in chairs and write with a pencil all day long. They need hands on stuff! Yes, I'm sure we learn about nature. But it's not the same. It's boring and kids don't want to learn about it, because it's boring.

If you let all 6th graders go, then kids will want to learn about it. Kids are already excited. Why do you think I'm writing this letter right now? Do you think it's fair to let kids who can afford it and go, than let all kids go?

When I go to Outdoor School, I anticipate that I will learn a lot about nature and I will soak it up like a sponge. I heard the 6th graders last year and I really want to go! I hope your decision is that you will say yes. When you say yes, I will be like giving kids there dreams.

Sincerely,
Beilley

Dear Oregon Lumbermaker Outdoor School is important to me because you can learn different things like different species. Also you could meet new people. Also you'll learn independence and how independence is hard for some people.

All kids should experience outdoorschool because some kids have never seen the ocean before. Also if there a person who stays inside this will give them a chance to see what the outdoors is like.

Respectfully Dodge Miller

Dear Oregon Lawmakers

I just want to tell you that, kids want to go. They hear there teachers talk about out door school all the time. I been to outdoor school in 5th grade. It was amazing it was the best time in my life. I learned so many things that I liked and I do not like learning at all and it was inspiring. So I expecte you will let these kids go

So you might be like right now o why should all kids go without money to go to out door school will they have to pay eaghph money to just get the stuff to go for what they where and ect. So let the kids go for Free. It is one simple question.

For all of Kindness-Monique

4/21/15

Dear Oregon Legislature

I think that going to out door school is important to me because it is a once in a life time deal.

Kids should be able to go to out door school, because you do not just have to be in a room with the same kids and you are not handson with things. Kids should be able to go and be handson and go have fun and explore the wilderness of out door school.

One thing I am excited about is going and seeing all the animals such as snail, mussels ect. You all so learn about tides and high tide and low tide, and when it is safe to swim.

I hope that when my class goes to outdoor school we are able to experence many new things, when we go to out door school.

Sincerely,

Jadhawells

thanks
to all !!!

Dear Oregon Legislature,

All Kids should be able to go to outdoor school because it is a once and a life time opportunity. It is important because you get to see and learn things that you would never in school plus it is fun looking at tide-pools and nature. My brother went to Outdoor school and he said it was one of the funest things he's ever done and he has done lots of things. So I hope you make a decision to let all kids go.

With respect - Nathan
Elwood

Dear Oregon legislature,

I think that Outdoor School should be free, because some people don't have a lot of money and won't be able to pay \$144. If they don't have enough money, they won't get to study marine life like others. Something that I want to learn when I go to Outdoor School is to look inside a tidepool and study creatures that live in tidepools. I think that going to outdoor school will change my career choices to become a person that studies the ocean and helps protect the ocean.

Sincerely,
Aidan K.

AUSTIN

Dear Oregon Law makers
of Dear Oregon Legislature.

everybody should get to experience
our our school because ITS
a once and a life time opportunity.

AND ITS KIND OF SAD THAT
many kids cant afford IT. AND
ITS best experience of a 6th grader
you could have. AND IT WOULD BE
fun if every BODY COULD JOIN US BUT
I GUESS ITS LIFE. AND THANK YOU
FOR LISTENING TO MY OPINION.

Dear Oregon Lawmakers outdoor school should be free because some people can't find enough money to pay the fee. Outdoor school is important to me because some people can experience things they haven't experienced before. Another reason is you can meet new people.

All kids should experience outdoor school because they can learn new things. Kids can also learn a lot about tidepools. Kids can also experience it themselves instead of in a book. They could also make new friends.

respectfully,
Kayla Albers

Dear Oregon Legislature,
Outdoor School is important to me
because you get a hands on
experience and you get to see and
learn things you might not have known
before. Also you get to meet new
people from other places. My brother
and sister said that they had so
much fun and that they learned so
many new things and now it's
my turn to go and I'm so excited.
But some of my friends can't go
because their families can't afford it.
I feel sad that they can't go just
because of their financial problems when
they deserve to go just as much as
I do if not more. I hope that you
can fix this problem.

Kind regards,

Kelsey, Juhl

Dear Oregon Lawmaker I think we should be able to go to outdoor school for free because outdoor school is very important to me because I never went to outdoor school before and it looks like it is very fun. Outdoor school might have some stuff I didn't learn before in my class. I might be able to explore wild life I never seen before. I would like to see how it is to explore wild life. We should have the option to go to outdoor school for free because some people might not have the the money to go and they might never had that experience and thats why we should go to outdoor school for free.

Sincerely Javier.

Dear Oregon Lawmakers

Outdoor school means a lot to many people. Because it might be the only time for a kid to get outside and do something. Also people can learn so many new things they didn't know about so many creatures and wildlife.

My sister went to Outdoor school and said "I had so much fun, I learn a lot new stuff." And what she said made me think how great it would be to go and do something like that, and it gives you an opportunity that you might never get to get again.

Well some people might not get to have that opportunity because maybe they can't afford it. But for everyone can go... that would make people so happy to hear because if they worked so hard and yet can't afford that would make someone so sad. So I'm glad to hear that everyone might be able to go.

Sincerely
Delicia

Dear, Oregon Lawmakers

outdoor school should be free. some kids don't have enough money to pay for it, and some have never gone to the beach or close to the water. well if it's free you can go and have a fun time. and learn about creatures that roll in the salt water and the regular water.

outdoor school has fun activity's that you will enjoy and have fun also. there's a camp fire silly plays you will enjoy outdoor school. I wish it was free my friend alfredy when she goes to pondo rosa. I hope outdoor school will be free

sincerely U'

Halli Kar oglau

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

I think that you can meet new friends and you get to see stuff you mite not have seen before. You can learn new stuff about the ocean and about plants, and most of all the out doors. You can see stuff for your self and not have people tell you and you still not know.

I think that all kids should be able to go to outdoor school because you can see things for your self. You can have the time of your life. You can hang out with you friends and meet new friends

Sincerely

Zandy or Zandria

4-21-15

4/21/15

Dear Oregon Lawmakers

I think Outdoor school would give you a hands on learning experience, and people might learn more, and you get to meet new people. It also might give kids a life time experience.

I also think kids learn more about marine life and how tide pools work. You also get to see the different climate and texture of the Oregon Coast economy, and your economy.

That's why I think all kids should have a life time experience going to outdoor school.

Sincerley,

Eddie Mendez

Dear, Oregon Lawmakers

I think it is important for every one to go to outdoors school because it encourages kids to work harder in school. Also outdoors school is important because it gives kids a chance to meet new people and learn new stuff. Also if kids go they can bond with their friends. Kids would be able to make memories as well. I know that if I had one chance to go to outdoors school with my friends I know I would really try to go so I think that would inspire other kids.

Sincerely Eryk M.

4/21/15

Dear Oregon law makers outdoor school should be available to everyone without charge beacuse it would be unfair if your family could not afford to go. At school you don't get to have hands on experience but at outdoor school you get to be outside and have hands on experiences.

A lot of kids have never been to the beach before and outdoor school may be the only chance they will ever have. When you are at outdoor school you will be meeting new people and have a good time. At outdoor school you get to get out of the boring classroom and learn outside. You would get to see tidepools and awesome animals and cool plants.

Sincerely,

Brad

Dear Oregon Legislature,

Outdoor school is a fun way for kids to get out of school and learn about things they never even heard about. Although most kids go, some can't. Whether it's because they don't have good grades or money.

All kids should be able to experience this one in a lifetime opportunity. Kids get to meet new people and make friends. Some kids have never seen the ocean. This could be the first time to see it. Outdoor School also gives a hands on experience with the learning. And it gives kids great memories.

Sincerely,

Addison

Alaina
4-21-15

Dear, Oregon Lawmakers.

Outdoor school should be open to everyone. If no one really see the world that can't go to Outdoor school because you don't have the money to go. Kids should experience Outdoor school would learn what life is be on human world and see what animals do and like ^{the} tidepool has small animals you can see.

Some kids never sleep over night. Who never leaves the house. Kids should be allowed to go to a whole new place they have been to. Outside the door is a new world. I would love to go to outdoor school to learn something new so does everyone.

Sincerely,
Alaina

Gabrielle.H

4-23-15

outdoor

School Letter

I think everyone should go to outdoor school because it is going to be a lot of fun and we get to learn at the same time. We get to learn about the tide pools and how the creatures live there life. Just by thinking about it I think we are going to have a great time we get to hang out with our friends (with no problems) this trip is going to be the best outdoor school trip ever

Sincerely

Gabrielle.H

Dear Oregon lawmakers,

Obviously outdoor school has been a helpful part of kids lives in past years. Outdoor school is important to me because it gets me motivated about my work and staying out of trouble. Another reason it is important to me is because it will be a once in a lifetime opportunity.

All kids should get to experience outdoor school because it will teach them how to be away from home. Being taught (or teaching yourself) how to be away from home is a good quality that will come around in many later life situations. Another benefit of all kids getting to go to outdoor school is how they will meet new people, and not be left out in the conversations. Also with all kids going they won't have to be put into another classroom while everyone is gone.

At outdoor school I think we will learn about different plants and animals. I hope we can go on hikes, if kids get paid for all of this can happen to them.

I hope the decision is made about giving money so every kid can go.

Sincerely,
Erik

Dear Oregon legislature

Mavis

1) Outdoor school is so important to me because it will be a once in a lifetime experience.

2) I think all kids should go to outdoor school because it is good for kids to get outdoors.

3) I want to learn about outdoor school is all about tide pools.

4) I think I will get a lot out of outdoor school because I will learn a lot about the ocean and other things like sea anemones. But I hope I will have fun when I will.

Dear Oregon Lawmakers

4-21-15

I think outdoor school should be paid for ^{every one} because some families can't afford it and it will be good for them because they will be by the ocean and you will get to meet new people. It will be good for them because some people can't have these experiences and it will be a good thing to learn and ^{some} people can't even go outside so it will be good for them to get a touch of something new like the get to touch sea creatures and trees, plants and animals. It should also be free because if someone hasent been by the ocean it is really important to know how they get the water and they need to know what fish there are because if you just read a book about it it my become boring and you aren't interested but if you see it it's better and more fun. Finally, I think it ^{should} be free because it how important and fun it could be. Sometimes favorite moment in ^{the} history of these lives.

Now you know my opinion about why outdoor school should be free for every one.

Sincerely

Zach W.

4-21-15

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

Outdoor school is important because many kids come back with a smile on their face. If you ask them if they had fun they would say "Yes"! Some kids don't want to go because they say it's boring. But when the other kids that did go come back they wish they would have gone.

All kids should get to experience outdoor school because instead of just reading out of a book they would get to actually experience it! Also many kids have good grades and good behavior but not the money to go. Every kid should go because they should have the right to experience science and fun! :-)

I want really what to learn about tide pools and nature. I want to actually see a tide pool instead of just seeing it in a image. I want to see all the animals that actually live there.

Dear, Oregon legislature

Outdoor school is probly really fun because we get out of school for we can learn more cool stuff with you guys. Outdoor school is really important to me because I really want to see what we get to learn I think all kids should get to experience outdoor school because its proply get really acctive and get to do lot of fun stuff something i wanna learn in outdoor school is all about the animals and how do they stay under water allday with out doing anything what are going to be my favorite memories is you will your friends and you get to learn new stuff outdoor school will impact my career choice like be nice to people and it not so bad to be without your parents and thats why i want to go to outdoor school

Sincerely,
Maria

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislature,

My name is Alejandro Charolla and I go to school at Ronderosa middle school in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I am a fabulous 6th grader in Mr. Pachols' classroom.

I am writing this to tell you that we didn't get to go to outdoor school because of the lack of funds, that we did not receive this year.

In conclusion, I hope that from now on other kids will get funded like my brother.

sincerely,

Alejandro Charolla

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislature,

My name is Alexandra Burris and I go to school at Ronderosa Middle School in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I am a 6th grader in Mr. Poshal's class.

I'm writing you this letter because last year my cousin Jonas got to go and I really want to go. So could you please make it so where we can't at least go next year. Please, please, please, please I really want to go!!!!!!

In conclusion outdoor school sounds really fun and I would at least like to go next year.

Sincerely,
Alex Burris

April, 24, 2015

Dear Oregon Legislature,

My name is Samantha Hampton and I go to school at Ponderosa Middle School in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I am an intelligent 6th grader in Mr. Parchali's homeroom.

I just wanted to let you know that I, personally, didn't get to go to outdoor school anyway, because my old school, Roosevelt, didn't have enough funds to go either. Ponderosa was denied when we asked to go because we had a low budget, and you didn't fund us.

All I'm asking is that you'll fund us so that next year, and possibly after that, the younger kids at both kids can go and experience what I have never experienced because I don't want them to look forward to something that they won't get. I don't want them to feel like that like I did.

Sorry for interrupting business,
Sorry For Interrupting business,

Samantha A. Hampton

april 24, 2015

Dear Legislators

My name is Ashton Blake and I go to school at Ponderosa middle school in Blanchfield, Oregon. I am a 6th grader in Mr. Pritchard's classroom. I am writing to let you know that we did not get to go to outdoor school because of the lack of money or be able to that we did not receive. My cousin, I hope you send money next year to our city schools so all have a fun experience at our outdoor school.

Sincerely,

Ashton Blake

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislature

Deanna Mather's son is in the 6th grade / go to
Panzara middle school in Klamath Falls Oregon and in in Mr Paschal
6th grade class at Panzara.

I'm writing to you because we did not go to
outdoor school this year at our school becos of
the money in the school's budget and I think that's
fair to the 6th graders at Panzara middle school that
didn't get to go.

We can help out money so the other
kids can go next year we can help by raising money
by selling chocolate boxes last year and we made
money like that.

Sours truly Deanna

April 24, 2015

Dear legislature

My name is Tim Evans and I go to pond-
rock middle school in Klamath Falls Oregon. I'm
in a wonderful 6th grade class in Mr. Parkal. in a
amazing class.

We wish you would give the money for
outdoor school. It makes us feel hated when
you do this. we feel so left out enryor
nothing.

In conclusion

We hope you give some money to the out
door program. so please give some money.
Because you'll pay soon enough thanks.

Sincerely
Timothy E. Evans

April 24, 2015

Dear, Legislature

My name is Mason Ziegler, I am
an intelligent 6th grader. And I go to
Ponderosa junior high school in Klamath Falls
OR.

I am upset about you not giving
my school money for outdoor school.
The intension for outdoor school is so kids
have a fun learning experience. Your
actions have left a big handfull of 6th graders
and 5th.

In conclusion your actions have
led to kids not having a good fun learning
experience. Thanks.

Sincerely:

Mason Z.

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislature,

My name is Gregail Pina, and I go to pandora middle school in Klamath Falls Or.
I am a grad student in Mr. Pached classes

I want to let you know we would not able to go to our camp because of lack in money and funds that we did not receive.

In conclusion, I hope you find us next year so the little ones to go and have fun until we I hope you far reaching.

Yours Truly, Gregail Pina

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislature,

My name is Amalia Hernandez and I go to Ponderosa Middle School in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I'm a wonderful 6th grader in Mr. Kischel's class.

I am writing to let you know that we did not get to go to outdoor school because of the lack of money and funds that we did not receive.

In conclusion, I hope that next year the students get to experience what I didn't experience at outdoor school.

yours truly,

Amalia

Hernandez

April 24, 2015

Dear Oregon Legislatures,

My name is Donna Levey and I go to school at Ponderosa Middle School in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I am a 6th grader in Mr. Pashals class.

I am writing to let you know that we did not get to go to Outdoor School because we do not have money to go. My bigger brother got to go and I didn't and I really wanted to go. *

In conclusion, I hope that you will give us money so at least other children will get to go and not me. At least they will have a fun 6th grade childhood. Too bad for me!

Yours Sincerely,
Donna Levey

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislatur

My name is Darnell Collins and I go to
Ponderosa middle school in Klamath falls
Oregon. I am a 5th grader
in Mr. Pershke's class.

I am writing to let you know that we
did not get to go to outdoor school
because of the lack in money for funds
that we did not receive. Now we can't
have that experience. Every one wants to go.

If you could give us money we
could get the future to go, I want my
younger sister to go. Please don't let her miss
out like I did 2 years in a row.
Hope every one else gets to go unlike
me so let them go.

yours Truly

Darnell Collins

April 24, 2015

Dear Leguana,

My name is Rennie Magallanes and I go to school at Ponderosa middle school in Klamath Falls, Oregon. I am a sunny 6th grader in Mr. Paschal's homeroom classroom.

I am writing to let you know we didn't get to go to our out door school because of a lack of money or poor funds. We did not receive enough money to see the gun & our out door school as we lost and next years we'll go but we won't go for.

In conclusion I hope what you did the school kids in the future go and experience the out door school.

Sincerely

Rennie Magallanes

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislators,

My name is Donoran De Los Reyes I'm in Ponderosa middle school in Blairith fall, or I'm in my parochial class in a smart 6th grader.

This year we did not get the chance to go I'm so sad. I hope the kids get to go. So they can get the chance to have that experience that my brother had.

In conclusion I hope you will give the chance to my sister get the chance to go so please let us have that opportunity. she needs to go to outdoor school. and so the little one here for not like us

Sincerely Donoran De Los Reyes

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislators

My name is Chyanne Fairbanks. I go to school at Ponderosa and I am a good kid in my pastoral class at Riverbush Falls. I am in 6th grade and we have not yet to go on any field trip at all.

I am writing this to let you know that we did not get to go to outdoor school. It really hurt the kids feelings and my. The reason it hurt my feelings is because I got told I could go had the money and you did not send the money for it. The next reason is because I have never been there before.

In conclusion I hope you give them the money next year. So they can have the experience I have never had.

Sincerely

Chyanne

Fairbanks

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislators,

My name is Abby Gray and I go to school at Pandemon Middle School in Thlamath Falls, Oregon. I am a out going 6th grader in Mr. Paschal.

I am writing to let know that we did not get to go to outdoor school because of lack of money or funds that we did not receive.

In conclusion, I hope that your guys can fund the kids that are below our grade have the experian that the we never had I was really looking forward to seeing those because my brother did.

Yours Truly

Abigail Gray

April 24, 2015

Dear legislature,

My name is Maddox Roberts, and I go to Ponderosa middle school in Klamath Falls Oregon. I am in 6th grade and I have a great teacher, I love school, it is awesome.

I am writing to you to inform you that due to lack of money, we didn't get to go to out-door-school, and my sister did get to go to out-door-school.

It would be awesome if you could give Klamath county some money so that the kids that come here next year would be able to get to enjoy the priviledge of getting to go to out-door-school.

Sincerely,
Maddox Roberts

April 24 2015

Dear

Dear Oregon Legislature

My name is Shyanne Ihman
and go to Ponberson Jr High School
in Klamath Falls Oregon. I am a bright
6th grader in Mr. Pachias class.

I am writing to you let you know
that we can't get to go out
for school cause lack of funds. If we
get money to let younger kids to go.

In closing you should get grants
for younger people and make the younger
cousins let them go so they do not
get to mess it like I did

Sincerely Shyanne Ihman

April, 24 2015

Dear, Legislature

My name is Gynoma
Annett and I got to school at
Pondwosa Middle school in Henth
Falls, Oregon. I am a 6th grader
in Mr. Paschal's classroom.

I am writing to let you
know that we didn't get to
go to outdoors school because
of the lack of money or funds
that we did more science.

In conclusion, I didn't get to
go but I hope everyone
else gets a chance. Sincerely,
Gynoma
Annett

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislature,

My name is Sara Wilson, and I go to Ponderosa Middle School, Klamath Falls, Oregon. I am an intelligent 6th grader in Mr. Paschal's classroom.

I am writing to let you know that we did not get to go to outdoor school, because of the lack of money, or funds. My bigger sister got to see this exciting experience, and not me.

In conclusion, I hope you help raise money so we can experience this exciting trip.

Sincerely,

Sara Wilson

April 24, 2015

Dear Legislature,

My name is Karime Arechiga and I go to Ponderosa middle school in Klamath falls, Oregon. I am a intelligent 6th grader in mr. Patchals class-room.

I am writing to let you know that we didn't get to go to outdoor school because of lack of money or funds that we didn't receive.

Sincerely, Karime
Arechiga

April 24

Dear Legistates,

My name is Celeste Englestadter i go to Ponderosa Middle School in Klamath Falls Oregon I am a wonderful 6th grader in Mr. Pachas Classroom. I am writing to let you know that we didn't go to Outdore School Becuase of money

I think that the city should go so that some one are ungerc saving can go

Sincerely, Celeste Englestadter

Sincerely, Celeste
Englestadter

April 24, 2015

Dear Oregon Legislature,

My name is Gillian Fenner and I attend school at Tonderosa Middle School in Klamath Falls. I'm an intelligent 6th grader in Mrs. Paschale's homeroom class.

I'm writing because we didn't get to go outdoors because we didn't receive a grant and we need the grant for the future.

In conclusion, children need this experience the first time. I don't want them to go through what my class went through. It's so disappointing.



Sincerely,

(Gillian C. Fenner)

April 24, 2015

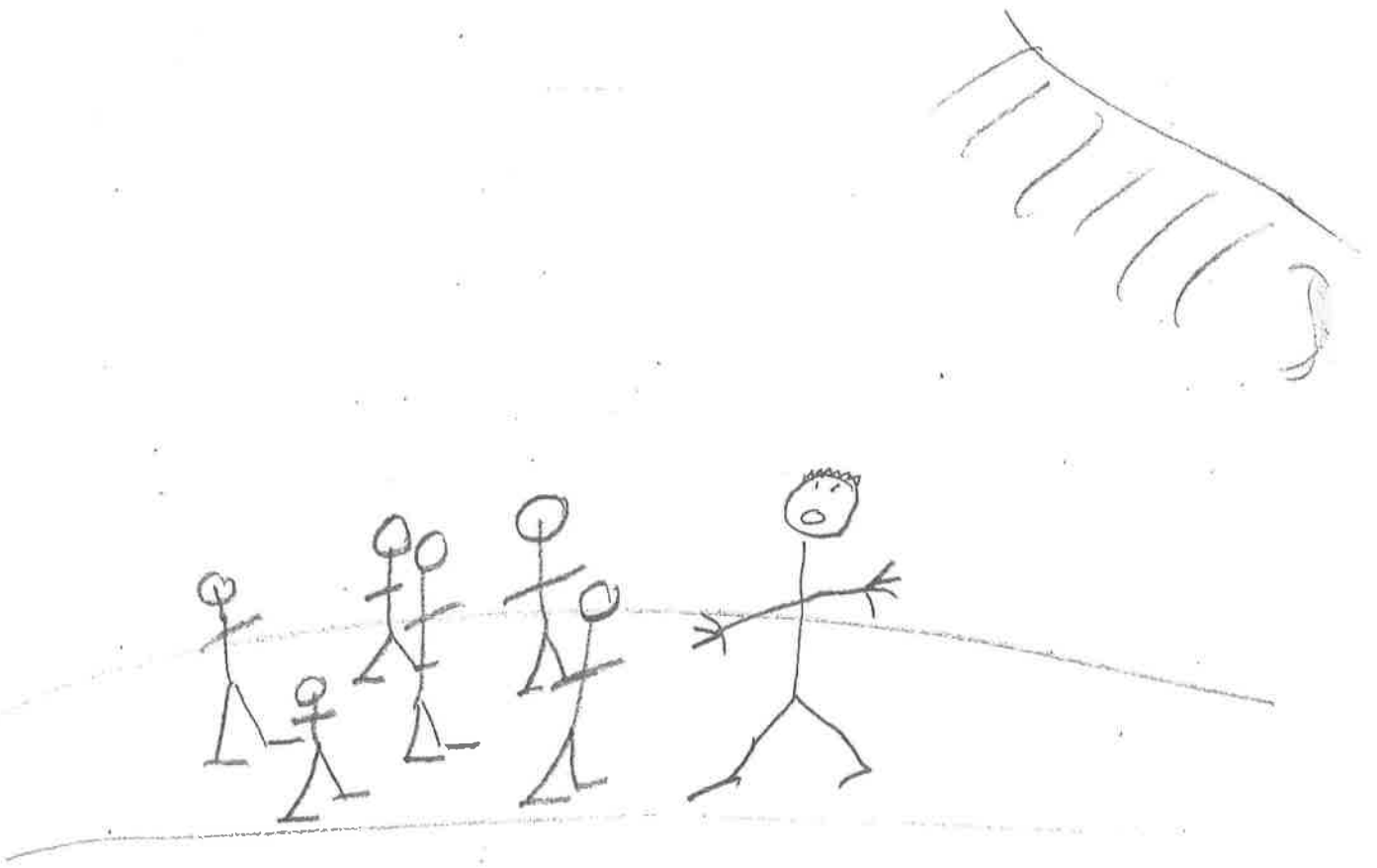
Dear Oregon Legislature,

My name is Jessica Rivera I go toponderosa Middle School in Klamath Falls or I am a 6th grader in Mr. Pothol's class.

I'm writing to let you know that we didn't get to go to outdoor school. Please give us money so at least other children will have the chance to have fun in city schools. I heard about outdoor school and it sounded so much fun. I really wanted to go but I can't thanks to you! :((

In conclusion, I hope other children will have the chance to go to outdoor school and have fun.

Your truly Jessica Rivera



Dear Oregon Law makers,

When I am outside I love to play sports and games. I love to study outside when my class goes on fieldtrips and learn new stuff. I love to have fun and do fun things. I love to make up games when I am at recess. So if you please support outdoor education for all students in Oregon.

Sincerely, Emily

3rd Grade PBCCS Crook Co.



Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

Please support Outdoor Education
for all students in Oregon.

The best part of learning
outside is learning about

Nature.

Ind gr. PBCCS Sincerely, Cortley



Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

Please support Outdoor Education
for all students in Oregon.

The best part of learning
outside is

learning to
build stuff like a little stick
haws.

And gr. pbs
Sincerely, Logan



Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

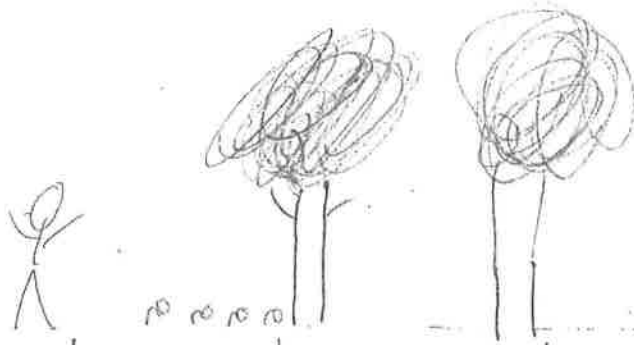
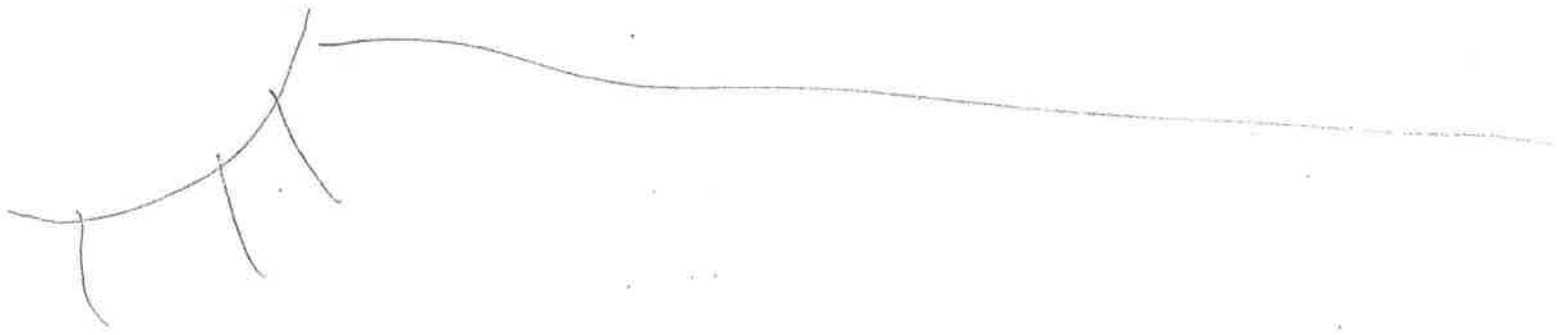
Please support Outdoor Education
for all students in Oregon.

The best part of learning
outside is that we can
learn about science outside.

We love going outside. ☺

Crook Co. Sincerely, Isabelle

2nd Grade Powell Butte Community Charter



Dear Oregon Law Makers

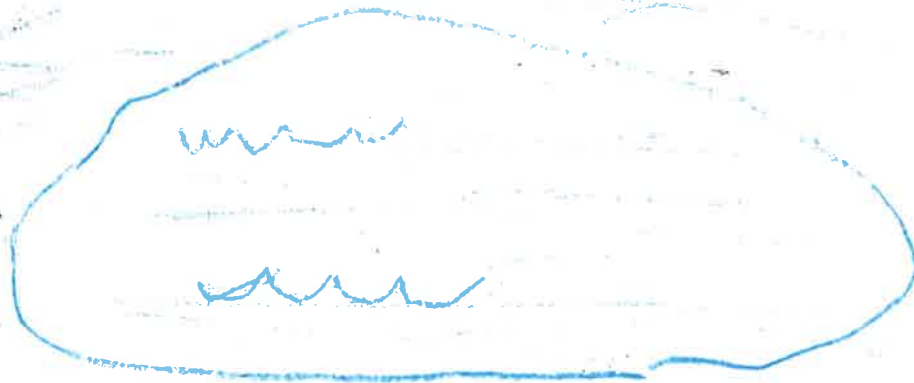
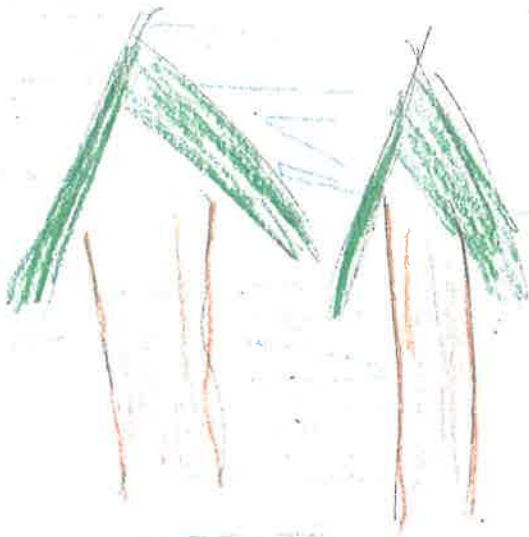
Please support outdoor Education
for all students in Oregon. Because
you can learn about plants
and trees. I Love playing out-
side in the grass.

PBCCS
3rd grade
Crockett.

Seh Serty Marshall

Kendall

May 1st



Outdoor education is important for all students

because you can't believe it until once you

see it. It's also important for outdoor education because

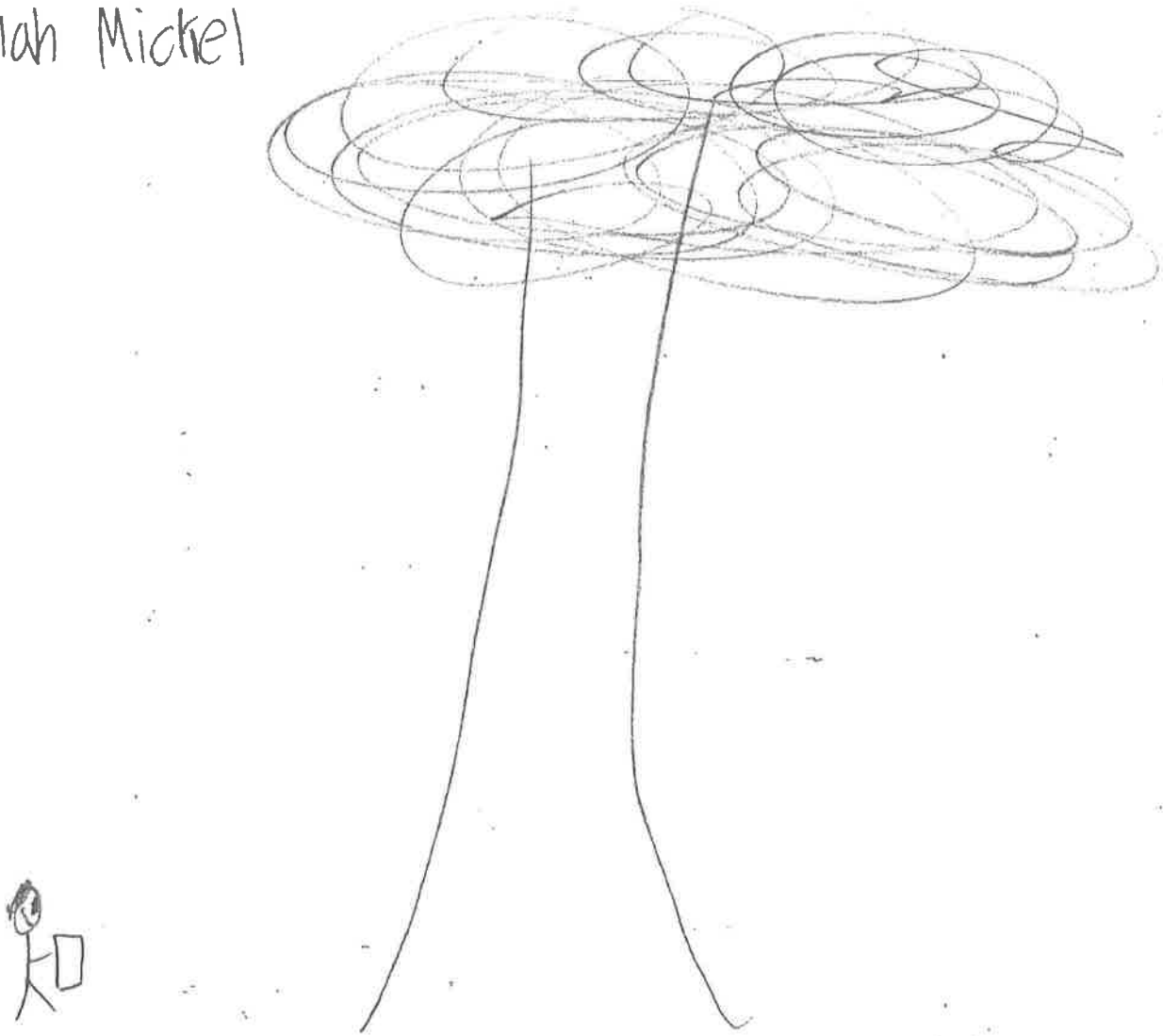
kids need a chance to go outside and have some

fun. So please let our kids have an opportunity

to go outside and learn things!

By Kendall

Josiah Mickel



The best part of learning outside is that you get involved with what is going on in the outside world and not just sitting in a room and writing words on paper.

Zach
3/19/12

I enjoy outdoor learning because It's fun I enjoy it and It's our time to do school and stay outside. When were outside you can collect data to help the environment and make it better. during outdoor school you can increase your knowledge and have fun while doing it. When your outside you can see what lives outdoors and what's in the environment. I think it's important to go outside to outdoor school because kids love it and really like to learn about the environment.

Sincerely

Z

Miranda
Irwin
3/17/14

Outdoor education is the only time I learn the most. The reason I am writing this is because I care about my education and other middle schoolers' education. Here, at Powell Butte Charter School, we go out and do field work. I value outdoor education because when I get out of the classroom I learn more or just understand more because I'm not sitting in a dark classroom for 70 minutes. Getting a break from classroom work and just doing work outside, it helps me when I come back to doing classroom work. When I come back I am more focused and not as tired of sitting in a dark hopeless classroom. I think other middle schoolers should have this experience. Thank you for reading.

OUT door education gives kids a
Chance to learn about things that we not
What they do in class. So I think
bro. I personally think that out
door school give me a break from my
in class work. I get to learn more about
the Surroundings. So I think that you
Should give more money to outdoor
Fieldwork Please.

The one and only
AJ Robinson



541.882.8846 • TTY: 711 • Toll Free: 1.800.378.4127 • Fax: 541.885.3638
3314 Vandenberg Road, Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee
Public Testimony
April 24, 2015

Good evening Chair Buckley, Chair Devlin and members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer and I am the Health Promotion Program Manager at Klamath County Public Health and I am here in support of continued and additional investments in public health to ensure that we can achieve the triple aim of better health, better care, and lower cost.

As a rural community, we face many barriers to healthcare that metropolitan areas do not. Many Klamath youth are living in poverty and not all students are getting the healthcare they need—in fact a reported 2 in 5 said they had unmet physical health needs. Research shows that health disparities, such as this, impact educational achievement, but fortunately, as you well know, there is a solution that helps address both—School based health centers.

School based health centers are a proven model, providing services that prepare young people for a lifetime of good health and healthy behaviors thus enabling them to better focus on academics. Prevention is the key to achieving the triple aim, and school based health centers are a tool that will help us get there.

Both our city and county school boards are well aware that healthy kids learn better and they are in support of maintaining and expanding school based health centers as a strategy to improve our graduation rates and health status of our youth. We have dedicated hours of our time working towards the establishment of a school based health center in Klamath Falls, and if that funding is cut, we will be unable to provide this crucial service for our students.

I strongly encourage you to make school based health centers and public health a priority. In doing so we can secure a healthy and successful future for our communities statewide.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Little". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Little
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program Manager
jlittle@co.klamath.or.us



Joint Ways and Means Committee
Public Testimony
April 23, 2015

Good evening Chair Buckley, Chair Devlin and members of the Committee:

My name is Tasha Meyer, I am the Executive Director of Youth Rising, a youth-led, community-wide coalition focused on preventing youth-substance abuse, teen violence, and suicide. I am writing in strong support of continued SPArC funding. Klamath County Public Health used previous funds from this grant to explore new avenues of tobacco prevention with Youth Rising.

Research clearly shows that 90% of smokers start before the age of 18. Klamath County has the highest rate of tobacco use among 11th graders in the state of Oregon, and smokeless tobacco use is double the state average among 11th graders and 5 times the state average for 8th graders. I am sure you are well aware that youth are particularly vulnerable to the toxins and addictive nature of tobacco, and tobacco can be considered as a gateway to using other drugs.

A major focus of this SPArC grant was on youth tobacco prevention. This funding allowed the health department to reach beyond the typical school environment and engage a diverse group of youth through their partnership with Youth Rising Coalition. The health department and Youth Rising came together to provide a youth summit that empowered teens to get involved and realize they could effectively make a difference in their community. Youth were taught how to plan for prevention and assess a community for change. They developed their own creative solutions to preventing youth-tobacco use and in turn guided the health department's work.

Youth are more likely to listen to their peers, and youth know what messages and strategies their peers will be receptive to. By engaging them in tobacco prevention work, we can empower them to change the norms among their age-group and the next generation of potential tobacco-users. Lastly, providing a vehicle for youth to educate their peers and sustain the level of work, requires a healthy budget. I strongly encourage you to re-invest in the SPArC grant so this meaningful engagement and youth-led movement can continue.

Sincerely,

Tasha Meyer

Executive Director

Youth Rising

Hope Rising, 501(c) 3



Joint Ways and Means Committee
Public Testimony
April 24, 2015

Good evening Chair Buckley, Chair Devlin and members of the Committee:

My name is Sophie Nathenson I am a Professor of Medical Sociology at the Oregon Institute of Technology, and I am writing in support of continued SPArC funding. Klamath County Public Health was awarded this grant and has used that money to explore new avenues of tobacco prevention and collaborate with community partners.

Research clearly shows that 90% of smokers start before the age of 18—these youth are what Big Tobacco calls “replacement smokers.” Youth are particularly vulnerable to the toxins and addictive nature of tobacco, and often times tobacco use precedes illicit drug use.

Unfortunately tobacco use continues to be a problem in our community, especially among our youth. We have the highest rate of overall tobacco use among 11th graders in the state—more than 1 in 3. More specifically, the prevalence of smokeless tobacco use is double the state average in 11th graders and 5 times the state average for 8th graders.

A major focus of this SPArC grant was on youth tobacco prevention. Rather than following the same path and relying on education in school, this funding allowed the health department to go beyond the classroom. They partnered with the Youth Rising Coalition and helped host a youth summit that empowered them to get involved and make a difference in their community. They were able to come up with their own solutions to youth tobacco use and help guide the health department’s work.

Engaging our young people is such an important aspect of public health, and to do the level of work required, a healthy budget is needed. I strongly encourage you to re-invest in the SPArC grant so this meaningful engagement and youth mobilization can continue.

Sincerely,

Sophie Nathenson, Ph.D.
Director, Population Health Management
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Oregon Institute of Technology

Hands-on education for real-world achievement.

3201 Campus Drive, Klamath Falls, OR 97601 | 541.885.1000 | www.oit.edu

April 23, 2015

Oregon Ways & Means Committee

Oregon Legislature

Salem, OR 97301

Dear Committee Members:

I am a lifetime Oregonian. I grew up in Prineville, Oregon and came to Klamath Falls in 1976 to further my education at Oregon Institute of Technology. I graduated in 1978 with an Associates Degree in Legal Secretarial Science. I remained in Klamath Falls going to work first for a leader in residential home lending at the time, Klamath First Federal Savings & Loan and later moved to a small title company as an Escrow Officer that grew and developed over my 35 year career to being the premier title and escrow company in the northwest, AmeriTitle. I recently retired and am spending some of my time serving on the Oregon Tech Foundation.

My desire to spend some of time with the Oregon Tech Foundation is two-fold: 1) I had a very successful career based upon the fact that I had instructors who worked with industry partners, such as southern Oregon attorneys and the District Attorney, to be able to provide me with current knowledge and skills that I would need to be a productive and successful employee. Emphasis for success was placed on good "ole" hard work, participating in the community, continuing to keep yourself updated with education through professional organizations, celebrating successes when deserved and individual guidance to work harder and research for better ideas and methods when I needed. They also went out and found work experience for "hands on learning" to test my skills as they were developing and decide what I liked best about the legal secretarial field which allowed me to find employment that I would enjoy. 2) Being a member of this community for all of my adult life, Oregon Tech has always been a shining star hidden away up here on the hill. Not only do they continue to produce stellar employees that are sought after in the job market and acknowledged as being an outstanding "return on investment", they have been a solid and stable industry for this community. Since the loss of timber industry related jobs in the 80's and 90's, Oregon Tech and KCC population of students and staff are very much needed and welcomed to the economic vitality of this community. A university, like Oregon Tech contributes to Oregon's economy, produces graduates that are sought after in the job market and are acknowledged as being an outstanding "return on investment" deserve State support.

I am requesting that you support two budget items:

1. Funding at the \$755 million level for the Public University Support Fund.
2. Funding the university capital construction projects, particularly Oregon Tech's Phase One of the Center for Excellence in Engineering & Technology (Cornett Hall Renovation).

Thank you for making the effort to hold a meeting in Klamath Falls, especially on the Oregon Tech campus. The State of Oregon has a gem of a university here in Southern Oregon and it deserves your attention.

Sincerely,



Kristi Redd

5710 North Hills Drive

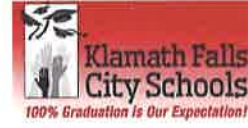
Klamath Falls OR 97603

541-882-1988 <mailto:kristiredd@charter.net>

PC: President Chris Maples

Lita Colligan, Associate Vice President

Senator Doug Whitsett



Klamath Community College/K-12 Pathways

1. Criminal Justice
Will lead to KCC's Criminal Justice Program and then to SOU's BA in Forensic Science.
2. Health Occupations.
Leading to KCC's Licensed Practical Nursing or RN Programs
3. Business
Leading to KCC's Accounting, Management or Entrepreneurship Programs.
4. Early Childhood
Leading to KCC's Early Childhood Program and then to SOU's licensed teacher certification in primary and secondary education.
5. Career Technical Trades
Leading to KCC's Automotive, Diesel, Culinary or Agriculture Programs.
6. Computer Technology.
Leading to KCC's Web or OIT's Computer Science Programs.
7. Oregon Transfer.
Leading to KCC's Arts and Science Programs and then transfer to Oregon Universities.

Friday, April 24, 2015, Testimony

By Paul Hillyer, Ph.D.

KFCS Superintendent

Good afternoon, members of the Ways and Means Committee. We appreciate your willingness to visit with us today and listen to our concerns about the approved K-12 biennium budget.

I am Paul Hillyer, the superintendent of the Klamath Falls City Schools. I have a bit of a unique perspective on our state's funding of education as I have had the experience of working in other, much better funded, states over my 35 plus years in education, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska.

Oregon's educational funding lags behind what is required to make Oregon's schools competitive with the rest of the nation. School years are shorter, class sizes are larger, textbooks are older and infrastructure is often worn out and out dated. K-12 education has gone from being 44.8% of the state budget in 2003 to 39.7% in the upcoming biennium. Everyone in our state suffers as our most critical natural resource, our children, are slighted.

For example, Oregon students on average have one less year of school in grades 1-12 than students in other states. In addition, only one other state has higher class sizes than Oregon. In fact, Oregon spends only 88% of the national average per pupil in K-12 and ranks 46th in state expenditures on K-12 as a percent of state taxable resources. Not surprising Oregon also rates very low when it comes to graduation rates and to closing achievement gaps. The 40/40/20 state educational initiative seems like a cruel hoax on Oregon's children when one considers these sobering facts.

The other states in which I have worked have much higher graduation rates and achievement scores. We want our student results to match and even exceed theirs. This will only be possible if our educational resources allow us to be competitive. Currently they do not. Thank you.

April 20, 2015

Dear Jackson, Josephine and Klamath County Legislators,

We, the undersigned Southern Oregon school district superintendents have been discussing the \$7.255 billion budget that is currently awaiting the Governor's signature and want to share our thoughts with you. Let us begin by expressing our appreciation for your support of K-12 education and your willingness to meet with us on a regular basis to both listen to our concerns and seek our advice. We understand the difficult choices you must make to try and support the needs across the state. With that in mind, we do have concerns regarding this budget, based on optimistic projections, and its impact on the schools of Southern Oregon. We encourage you to continue to look for ways to increase the amount allocated to K-12 in year two of the biennium. As such, here are some of the impacts this budget holds for different districts in our region:

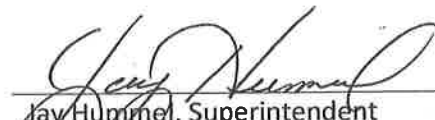
- Full-day kindergarten will require taking resources from other programs. The proposed budget won't cover the amount needed to fund full-day kindergarten in most of our districts. Many will be forced to make tough decisions such as tapping into reserve accounts, not moving to full-day kindergarten and/or borrowing funds to afford the start-up costs.
- The 50-50 split will need to be utilized to build budgets rather than the 49-51 split creating deep budget cuts during the second year of the biennium. While we appreciate the promise that 40% of any May projection increase will be added to that \$7.255 number, we also hear that the kicker will likely kick and negate any benefit derived from that May projection.
- Class sizes will remain the same as they are today for 2015-16 and most likely be increased for 2016-17, negating any movement made by districts during the current biennium.
- Textbook purchases will need to be delayed.
- There will be no restoration of programs.
- Making forward progress on unfunded initiatives/mandates will be difficult.
- Increasing graduation rates, increasing academic performance and having all students reading on grade-level by third grade – all of these are monumental tasks. Accomplishing them without adequate funding support will be extremely challenging and in some cases simply not possible.
- Deferred maintenance projects will once again remain on hold for two more years.
- Reserve funds, where they still exist, will be used to fund programs and supplement budgets.
- Ending Fund Balances will remain dangerously low and in many cases will slip further.
- Staff morale is low. Years of sacrificed compensation, compounded with higher class loads and increasing responsibilities have taken a toll.


We want to make sure that above all, you remember that we have experienced significant cuts over the last six years and this budget does not restore those cuts or support progress in the unfunded initiatives/mandates. Instead it leaves many of us in a holding pattern for the first year and will result in backward movement in year two. Progress has been made despite these cuts and this is a credit to the hard-working dedication of our staff members. What we are seeing, however, is exhaustion. Many

talented individuals are leaving the profession and the cuts over the last six years have made it hard to attract people to education. We are disappointed that an improving Oregon economy has not yielded a budget that would lead to restoration and improved services for our children, but one that will once again have each of us considering cost cutting measures or keeping the status quo.

We look forward to working with you to increase the funding for K-12 education in Oregon.

Respectfully,


Jay Hummel, Superintendent
Ashland School District

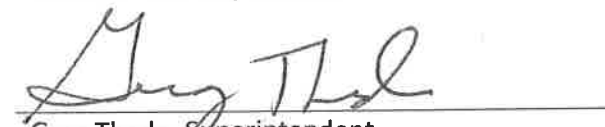

David Courtney, Superintendent
Butte Falls School District


Samantha Steele, Superintendent
Central Point School District


Cynda Rickert, Superintendent
Eagle Point School District

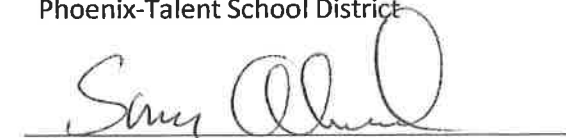

John Higgins, Superintendent
Grants Pass School District



Paul Hillyer, Superintendent
Klamath Falls City Schools


Greg Thede, Superintendent
Klamath County School District


Brian Shumate, Superintendent
Medford School District


Teresa Sayre, Superintendent
Phoenix-Talent School District


Sam Alvord, District Administrator
Pinehurst School District


Paul Young, Superintendent
Rogue River School District


Scott Perry, Superintendent
Southern Oregon ESD


David Holmes, Superintendent
Three Rivers School District

Speech- Allison Cook

Good evening, my name is Allison Cook. I am originally from Granite Bay, California and played collegiate volleyball here at Oregon Tech. I am an Honor's Program student majoring in Radiologic Sciences with a minor in Medical Sociology. I will be spending an 11 month long externship at Legacy Emanuel in Portland and graduating in June of 2016.

I chose Oregon Tech because I wanted to earn a degree through a hands-on learning environment that would prepare me for a secure career. Specifically, Oregon Tech offers a Bachelor's Degree in Radiologic Sciences; one of the only schools on the West Coast to do so! This medical program also has a 99% registry pass rate making Oregon Tech the best choice when compared to other imaging programs.

In my first year anatomy courses, I was able to interact with cadavers which, is relatively unheard of that early in an undergraduate program. Per a partnership with Sky Lakes Medical Center, Oregon Tech allows students to perform observations in our fields of study as early as our first year in the medical program.

As a student with a hearing disability, I have been able to utilize many additional services that the college has to offer, such as: the testing center and the Tech Opportunities Program. Without these two services, I truly do not think that I could have made it this far at such an academically-rigorous university.

Upon completing my degree, I plan to be a certified X-Ray Technologist, with additional certifications in Cardiac Intervention and possibly Computed Tomography. Attaining all of these additional certifications would be near impossible if I did not attend such a well-accredited university. Oregon Tech has also encouraged my volunteerism efforts; I cannot wait to expand on my community involvement after graduation!

Over my 21 years of life, I have had a few accomplishments: however, one of these was winning the title of Miss Oregon 2013 and over \$37,000 in scholarships! This could not have been possible without the academic and scholarship support from the university.

Overall, attending Oregon Tech was the absolute best decision I could have ever made. I want other students to have an equal opportunity to have a wonderful collegiate experience. Thank you for your time and please consider providing the monetary support that the university deserves.



SOU Top Priority: Support and Serve Students

Provide \$755 million in the 2015-2017 biennium for the Public University Support Fund.

For SOU, the increased funding will support improved long-term access, retention, and graduation of rural, first-generation and under-represented students; and add capacity to fulfill our Achievement Compacts and strategic goals related to work force and economic strength. The proposed \$670 million in the Co-chair's budget framework will cover the cost of existing services for students, but will not provide additional resources to improve outcomes for low income, minority or first-generation student access or graduation rates.

The proposed Co-chair's budget will allow us to maintain the status quo, which will not significantly improve SOU's contributions to the state's progress on its 40-40-20 goals. Full funding at \$755 million will allow SOU to implement programs and services that will make significant strides toward 40-40-20.

Retain the full 1% of the lottery fund for University athletic programs.

As legislated in 2005 in HB 3466, SOU depends on this support for our non-revenue sports, women's athletics, scholarships, and Title IX compliance. One percent is estimated to amount to \$11.4 million in the 2015-2017 biennium. The Co-Chair's budget framework recommends an \$8 million investment in non-revenue sports, which will minimally sustain sports programs at SOU. Decreased sports lottery funding reduces diversity, access for underrepresented students, and opportunities for scholar athletes. Reduced sports programs will also have a negative impact on rural economic development, as there will be fewer contests bringing fewer fans and teams into our communities as tourists.

Support full funding of the Public University Capital Request of \$275 million.

SOU must address deferred maintenance of older buildings for the health and safety of students and staff, and our ability to meet long-term access demands of 40-40-20 goals. Our Britt Hall renovation is part of the \$275 million for Article XI Q Bonds. Constructed in 1957, Britt Hall is the third oldest building on campus. It houses classrooms, academic departments, and student services. It is one of two academic buildings on campus that have had no major seismic or HVAC upgrades since original construction. The restrooms on the second floor are not ADA compliant and the "rounded" roof on the second floor is leak prone and seismically flawed. The site is GSF 66,980; the building is GSF: 35,516. The total project cost is \$4,788,000. The project will start when bonds are sold. Estimated completion time is 12-18 months after start date.

Ryan Brown

Southern Oregon University

Themes and Talking Points for Grants Pass W/M Hearing April 25.

Universities are Economic Engines

- Universities can be economic engines for their communities and the state as a whole, producing graduates who contribute to the economy as entrepreneurs as well as becoming valuable employees.
- Oregon is a desirable state in which to live, and having a more educated workforce will make it more desirable for businesses to start, expand or relocate here.
- Graduate incomes (via income tax revenues) support Oregon priorities across the board from K-12 education to healthcare to public safety.
- Students who turn into graduates bring success not only to themselves and their families but also to Oregon.
- More education someone has = less revenues spent on public services for them; as education and income increase, use of social safety nets decreases, as does incarceration rates.
- More jobs and a stronger, more stable and diverse workforce (diverse in the broadest sense) come with more college graduates. Companies expanding in Oregon and coming to Oregon is the outcome.
- Strong communities are present when there is a strong middle class; higher education attainment rates are the key to rebuilding a middle class in this state, and the key to reinvigorating Oregon towns and cities, east to west and north to south.
- This generation of graduates is more entrepreneurial than ever before, and we're seeing graduates stay in or return to their small cities and towns after graduation and starting companies that will help rebuild rural Oregon and invigorate our urban areas as well with new ideas and ventures from an increasingly diverse group of graduates.

\$755 Million in Student Support Funding Needed

- Just about all state programs have regained pre-recession levels, except for higher education. With inflation and increased enrollment, the seven university presidents calculated a \$755 million appropriation as a start to make the public universities whole.
- At this funding level all seven campuses have identified investments they could make to improve access for underrepresented students, increase financial aid, provide better academic counseling and support for students, and increase graduation rates for Oregonians.
- Although we are very grateful for the increase in the Co-chairs budget over the Governor's budget, that we don't believe that outcomes will increase measurably at this level. We would like to say differently, but we would not be speaking authentically or accurately.

- Making progress toward the 40-40-20 goal means boosting enrollment still further. And that means recruiting students more likely to need extra support, both financial and academic, if they are to earn degrees.
- The Legislature's budget leaders have proposed a larger higher education budget for 2015-17 than did Gov. John Kitzhaber. But the amount still is less than is needed — less even than the per capita student funding level of eight years ago.
- Universities need the increased state funding not only to teach students but also to help keep them in school, so they graduate with a degree instead of dropping out with huge student loans but no diplomas. University presidents will use the additional money for student financial aid, academic and career advisers, other retention programs
- Higher education in Oregon has struggled in the past few decades with declining fiscal support from the state. As state support has dwindled, Oregon's community colleges and universities have taken the brunt of funding cuts. According to the 2014 State Higher Education Finance Report, Oregon now ranks near the bottom — 47th out of 50 — in public spending per student.
- This number has moved slightly up and down between 44th and 47th for many years now. And this is more than a number on a chart. Behind this number are the thousands of students in our universities; thousands of graduates who are now successful members of our workforce and our communities; and also thousands of students who didn't get through our institutions, dropped out, and frankly, we're not really sure how they are all doing.
- While our number of degrees may have increased over the last decade, that is more so because of enrollment increases, not because we've gotten much better at improving our retention and graduation rates.
- No big mystery why the debt load is so high: Oregon ranks 47th in per-student funding for two- and four-year public institutions, while it is the 17th-most expensive.
- The Equity Lens is cracked and the Safety Net has a hole in it. The students who most need these supports — those in the sightlines of the Equity Lens — are harmed the most. They are frequently poorer, less academically prepared for the rigor of college, have no family experience with college attendance, often have more family responsibilities, have less access to transportation, often must work more, have fewer advocates, are less likely to know how to seek out help, and are often less confident in thinking that there is help out there and that they have a right to it.
- Students drop out when we either can't identify those students fast enough or can't get them routed to services fast enough before we lose them. Often it is one incident which moves a student to drop out: an unexpected bill they can't pay; an inability to secure or pay for childcare; or failing an exam that feels like the last straw to a student who already feels underprepared for the academic rigor of college.
- Implications for the 40-40-20? It's not an attainable goal at our current budget amounts. Getting to 40-40-20 has such a low confidence rating that it has gone from North Star to a

Black Hole. We are not able to help these students be academic stars as we should. Instead they become lost in space with some college, no degree, and only a mound of student loan debt to show for it. None of us want that as our legacy.

University Efficiency/Revenue Options/Quality

- The three-year retrenchment process that eliminated some faculty positions and ended unpopular majors is apparently working. The trustees were told that all targets have been reached. Enrollment last fall exceeded the target by 2.2 percent, and student retention is the best in more than a decade.
- SOU is doing its part to reduce costs and increase performance. Now it's up to the Legislature to step up and provide more support.
- Everyone continues to look for some answer that has stayed hidden under a rock that will save us all. I'm sorry, but that's not the case. We know the cost drivers. We know all the stats. We know what we need to do to better support students. But we cannot move the dial without more funding than the co-chairs budget.
- We have one of the top 3 and top 7 most efficient group of public universities in the country. Our cost per degree in recent years is the third cheapest in the nation for the large campuses, and the 7th cheapest for TRUs. We are at an efficiency level that other states can only dream about. But there is a cost for that. And that cost has been passed on to our students, in many cases, to their detriment.
- The public universities have made up for declining state support by raising tuition, relying on students to borrow in order to pay for what used to be considered a public responsibility. At risk is a legacy of high-quality, affordable higher education for all Oregonians. With overall student debt at over \$1.3 trillion in the United States — more than all credit card debt combined — we are fast reaching the limit on the new dollars we can reasonably ask students to spend on public higher education. And yet, our core mission and our responsibility to affordable, quality higher education in Oregon are as important as ever.
- We believe that sustaining excellent universities for the state of Oregon requires finding ways to avoid tuition increases while committing fully to the excellent faculty who are necessary for fulfilling our core mission. The absence of a robust state budget for higher education is the greatest challenge facing the public universities, but it is no excuse for not prioritizing the investments that serve the university's academic mission. We urge our state legislators to reinvest in our children's future, so that we can maintain the excellence demanded of our public institutions.

Sports Lottery Funding

- The objective in 2015-17 is to retain the full 1% of the lottery fund for collegiate sports, as legislated in 2005 in HB 3466, to support non-revenue sports, women's athletics, scholarships, and Title IX compliance.
- The Co-Chairs budget framework recommends \$8 million investment in non-revenue sports, which will minimally sustain sports programs at SOU. Our NAIA football team was recognized in Salem this past week. Our student athletic programs are critically dependent on state sports lottery funding.
- Student athletes have greater persistence to graduation and higher GPAs than the general student population.

Public University Capital Request of \$275 million for 2015-17

- We've added 20,000 students to the enrollment at public universities -- the equivalent of adding another university the size of PSU, UO, or OSU.
- Space is important to helping students to graduate on time
- Bringing classrooms in line with standards for modern learning and to create a technologically capable workforce
- Oregon's public universities account for 50 percent of the state capital stock. That stock is aging: Over \$527M in deferred maintenance for safety, seismic upgrades and ADA accessibility.

SOU must address deferred maintenance of older buildings for the health and safety of students and staff, and our ability to meet long term access demands of 40-40-20 goals. Our Britt Hall renovation is part of the \$275 for Article XI Q Bonds. Britt is the third oldest building on campus. It houses classrooms, academic departments and student services. It is one of two academic buildings on campus that have had no major seismic or HVAC upgrades since original construction. The restrooms on the second floor are not A.D.A. compliant and the "rounded" roof on the second floor is leak prone and seismically flawed.

Other

- The affordability measures that are being proposed, such as more money in the Oregon Opportunity Grant program and carry-forward of the tuition buy-down are very much needed for students. And we appreciate and support that. But it does not enable the campuses to have the critical support staff that will enable a growing percentage of these students to get through to degree. These services are more than important, they are the often the difference between a student being able to stay in school and get a degree or having to drop out.



Chrysten Lambert
Director Oregon Water Project

April 24, 2015

Re: Department of Fish and Wildlife Klamath Basin Acquisition of Instream Water Rights

Good evening Co-Chairs Devlin and Buckley and members of the Committee.

My name is Chrysten Lambert and I am the Director of Trout Unlimited's Oregon Water Project and formerly was the Director of Water Transactions for the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust (KBRT). KBRT is a small non-profit that partners with ranchers and landowners to complete riparian and wetland restoration projects in the basin. KBRT has developed two important instream flow restoration projects, located on Deming and Sun Creeks in the headwaters of the Klamath Basin (Representative McLane's District), and is working together with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to secure federal funding to complete this effort. I am here tonight to ask your support for ODFW's request to apply for \$740,000 of funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Section 6 grant program that was brought to your Committee in February.

The benefits of these projects are substantial and multidimensional. You will hear from other stakeholders tonight that will describe the important ecologic benefits these projects, such as restoring migratory pathways for federally listed bull trout and providing additional cold, clean volumes of water to support the recovery of other native fish including redband trout, short nose and Lost River suckers. But you will also hear from ranchers that live in these communities that view these projects as critical steps towards securing reliable supplies of irrigation water for their ranches and for maintaining the economic viability of the basin.

As many of you know, water in the Klamath Basin is over-appropriated, and now that adjudication is complete, calls for water to fulfill Tribal Treaty rights substantially limit the availability of water for irrigation. The two landowners participating in these projects are voluntarily transferring portions of their water rights to instream flow in order to reduce this deficit. Both ranches will continue to operate active cattle ranches, maintain their current number of employees, and will also continue to irrigate other portions of their property which they view as their prime pasture land. These landowners are leading the way in balancing water use on their properties to meet the competing needs of the community and since both properties are located in the headwaters of the basin, their reductions in water use will provide increased water reliability for everyone downstream.

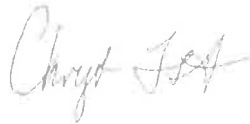
In addition, if the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement (the negotiated water settlement between the Klamath Tribes and the off-project irrigators) is implemented, these water retirements will qualify towards the 30,000 acre-feet reduction in water use that the irrigators have committed to in

exchange for reducing the magnitude of water calls placed by the Klamath Tribes, providing even greater economic security to the community. But with or without the Agreement, these projects stand on their individual merits as win-win opportunities: recovery of native fish, increased water availability and improved economic stability.

I am submitting to you several letters of support for ODFW's request, including one that was co-signed by the Upper Klamath Landowner Improvement District (irrigators) and the Klamath Tribes. These parties have litigated against each other over water issues for decades, but agree on the importance of these projects and moving forward together.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chrysten Lambert".

Chrysten Lambert

April 23, 2015

Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Richard Devlin
Representative Peter Buckley

Re: Klamath Basin Acquisition of Instream Water Rights

Dear Co-chairs Devlin and Buckley,

As a landowner in the Klamath Basin, I am submitting this letter to request the approval of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's ("ODFW") application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire irrigation water rights in the Klamath Basin for instream transfer.

My family purchased the Dixon Ranch ("Ranch") in 2013 as part of a long-term vision and dedication to retain the land for future generations use and enjoyment, while simultaneously operating a successful cattle business. Immediately upon acquiring the Ranch, I became acquainted with the Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust ("KBRT") and was educated on the restoration efforts that had been underway for many years focusing on reestablishing the historic Sun Creek channel, a project isolated to my property.

In an effort to prudently manage and operate the Ranch on behalf of my family, I have researched and analyzed the proposed goals, plans, funding and overall impact the Sun Creek project will have on my cattle operation and long-term land position. As I see it, the section 6 proposal provides a dual benefit of providing compensation for the pastures that I have elected to retire from irrigation and full-season grazing, while improving the ecological and recreational value of my property by reestablishing Sun Creek to its historic channel, and still allows me to maintain a fully viable cattle operation on the most productive pastures of the Ranch. As a result of this analysis, I signed and submitted a Letter of Intent with KBRT on December 4, 2014 that documented my commitment to sell portions of my irrigation water rights for the purpose of permanently transferring them to instream flow in Sun Creek.

The instream water transfer in Sun Creek is a critical component of a larger restoration project that includes habitat improvements and improved passage for federally threatened bull trout, as well as irrigation efficiency improvements that would reduce water use on the irrigated portion of the Ranch. I do not believe the restoration can take place without the instream water transfer. I also believe that the value of the water rights will most likely rise over time given the current shortage of deliverable water to meet California's needs.

I have been impressed, and frankly pleasantly surprised by the collaboration and mutual support of all the partners involved on this project, including The Klamath Tribes, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, as well as six state and federal agencies (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Water Resources Department, Crater Lake National Park, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

I firmly believe that the brightest future of the Klamath Basin relies on the stewardship and management of thoughtful and intellectual landowners that strive to improve both operationally and ecologically.

I respectfully request that you approve the Section 6 proposal as submitted by ODFW.

Regards,

Edward Maletis

Manager, Limnes Land Company, LLC
Dixon Ranch

March 5, 2015

Senator Richard Devlin
Representative Peter Buckley
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Re: ODFW Application for Klamath Basin Acquisition of Instream Water Rights

Dear Co-chairs Devlin and Buckley,

I am writing to request that the Ways and Means Committee approve Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW's) request to apply for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Section 6 Funding for two projects to restore instream flow in the Klamath Basin. One of the proposed projects is located on my property, the Deming Ranch, and is an essential part of our long term operating plan for the ranch.

My partner and I acquired the ranch in 2009 with the intention of increasing the agricultural productivity of the ranch by improving the irrigation infrastructure and implementing high-intensity rotational grazing practices on the ranch's 200 acres of prime pasture lands, while also meeting the ecologic needs of the region through riparian restoration and the instream transfer of a portion of the water rights.

The project has been extremely successful to date. Prior to irrigation and grazing improvements, the property could support 70 Cow-calf pairs on what should have been prime irrigated pasture. Upon implementation of a High Intensity/Short Duration grazing program, we were able to increase the capacity of the same acreage to 180 cow-calf pairs per year. This allows us to protect 75 acres of ecologically critical riparian pastures and to graze large areas of the ranch under dryland conditions, without any reduction in the number of cattle on the ranch. We desire to sell the water rights for the remaining areas for instream transfer, which will recoup the cost of the irrigation and grazing improvements that we made to the property. We believe that these management changes are essential to the future of the Klamath Basin as they provide an opportunity to balance viable ranching with healthy ecosystems and fisheries.

This ranch is owned and operated privately and I believe firmly in the private property rights that ownership provides me. If landowners are prevented from engaging in projects like those proposed in the Section 6 application, the ability of the landowners that are party to the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement will be impaired. A likely result will be extensive water shutoffs to irrigation, with significant economic consequences, as well as the continued decline of native fish populations.

I respectfully request that you approve ODFW's 2015 Application to the USFWS Section 6.

Sincerely,



Dan Kominek

Deming Ranch Land and Cattle, LLC, Managing Partner



April 24, 2015

Co-chairs Devlin and Buckley and members of the committee:

I am the Restoration Director at Klamath Basin Rangeland Trust and the project manager for the Sun Creek restoration project. I am also involved with flow restoration efforts on Deming Creek. For the last two years I have been working with a diverse group of federal, state, tribal, and private partners on the Sun and Deming Creek projects. I'm here to represent those partners and explain the ecological goals behind each project.

Bull trout were once widespread in the Upper Klamath Basin. They are now isolated to only eight small populations in headwater streams. One of these is Sun Creek, and another is Deming Creek. The problem these two bull trout populations face is simple. The water in Sun Creek and Deming Creek is over-allocated in dry years. In late summer when bull trout spawning migration occurs, the entirety of both creeks is sometimes diverted to irrigate pastures. These streams and the fish they support are important to the culture, economy, and heritage of this region. For example, the headwaters of Sun Creek lie within Crater Lake National Park, a crown jewel of the National Park Service. Bull trout are the only native fish species found in Crater Lake National Park and biologists there have been working for the last 20 years to increase the distribution and range of the Sun Creek bull trout population. Their efforts have been successful and today Sun Creek supports the largest bull trout population in the Klamath Basin, yet problems with downstream habitat and the lack of instream flows prevent future recovery.

Federal land managers are not alone in recognizing the value of bull trout. The primary water user on Deming Creek has voluntarily tested the value of instream water transfers by leaving a portion of his irrigation water rights instream since 2013. These are the same water rights that will be permanently transferred by funding this Section 6 proposal. He has also engaged in several other habitat and fish passage projects on his property, including channel realignment, fish screening, and riparian fencing—all of which are also planned on Sun Creek to improve bull trout habitat. The efforts on Deming Creek are already paying dividends as fish monitoring in the summer of 2014 revealed a substantial shift in the downstream extent of both bull trout and redband trout relative to 2009 sampling.

With this Section 6 proposal, KBRT and ODFW request federal funding to compensate landowners for voluntarily transferring a portion of Deming and Sun Creek water rights instream. These transfers guarantee minimum instream flows that will keep fish alive. Increased flows will allow bull trout populations to expand their range, grow in numbers, and be more resilient to disturbance events such as floods, droughts, and fire. The instream water transfers complement other restoration projects and put milestones for bull trout recovery within reach.

On behalf of KBRT and all our project partners, I strongly encourage the Ways and Means Committee to join land managers, ecologists, and ranchers in the Klamath Basin who have come together in support of this resource. We request that you recommend this proposal for Section 6 funding. Thank you for your consideration.

Nell Kolden, Restoration Director

Linda Long, Principal Broker

Subject: WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Oregon Ways and Means Committee
Co-Chairs Devlin and Buckley
Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank and welcome Co Chairs Devlin and Buckley as well as the Committee for bringing their meeting to Klamath Falls!

I am present here to support ODFW's request to apply for Section 6 funding for two projects transferring instream irrigation water rights in the Klamath Basin. My name is Linda Long, I own a ranch with my husband Pete Bourdet along the Williamson River north of Chiloquin.

These projects are with voluntary landowners trying to balance their water use for continuation of long term family cattle ranching operations while reducing water use to accommodate the needs of the Klamath Tribes and the fishery.

Voluntary reduction of water use helps supply increased water security for all users in the Klamath Basin. These water rights located in the upper reaches of the watershed are extremely beneficial to all in the basin below.

The restoration of Deming Creek and Sun Creek are essential for the recovery of the threatened bull trout. Your consideration of these steps are critical to achieve this goal.

Linda Long, Principal Broker/Owner
Crater Lake Realty, Inc.
PO Box 489/33550 Hwy 97N
Chiloquin, OR 97624
Cell: 541-891-5562
541-783-2759/Fax 541-783-2724
Linda@CraterLakeRealtyInc.com
www.CraterLakeRealtyInc.com

My name is Gordon Madden. I'm a non-traditional student from Grants Pass, OR, pursuing an Embedded Systems Engineering Technology degree. When I graduate in 2017, I will be looking for a career in Oregon in the field of wireless communication and tracking.

I chose Oregon Tech when Professor Breedlove from the CSET department and several OIT students visited the community college I was attending. As I was researching schools, I found that OIT is one of only a handful of colleges in the nation that offer an embedded systems degree. I came here as a direct result of marketing by the school and the programs that they offer. OIT offers more "hands-on" classes, lower teacher to student ratios, and has a better job-placement record than other western Oregon schools.

The Financial Aid office did an outstanding job helping me understand how to apply for aid, though in the end the help that was available was underwhelming. It is a hardship for my family to have me in school and lower tuition and access to grants would help greatly.

One program that has consistently helped me succeed at OIT is peer consulting — also known as tutoring at most colleges. The peer consultants who work in the computer science building help scores of students that the professors don't have time to help. Peer consulting is an invaluable service and extending consulting hours would definitely help many more students succeed.

I became the president of a club that was not operating, and was able to secure funding for this year. Because of that funding, we began working with a local 5th grade class, teaching them about the scientific process, and guiding them in building experiments which will be launched into the upper atmosphere next month. I asked the students to calculate how many party balloons it would take to lift them off the ground. Introducing the idea of asking a question, and answering it using measurements and math got the students thinking about studying science and math in the future.

I have met many motivated people with great ideas since coming to this school and over the course of my first year here, I have seen these people accomplish great things with modest budgets. Please fully fund our schools; I want to see what else my fellow students can accomplish with proper funding.

Good Evening co-chairs and members of the committee. My name is Kat Rutledge and I am the Director of the Small Business Development Center at Klamath Community College. I am also the Chair of the Klamath IDEA Project, a collaborative effort to bolster innovation and entrepreneurship. This Oregon Solutions Project is supported by the SBDC, KCC, OIT, the Chamber, the Economic Development District and private business. As the SBDC Director, I have the privilege every day of sitting knee-cap to knee-cap with would-be entrepreneurs, innovators and existing small business owners and have become intimately aware of the challenges that face these entrepreneurs.

Access to capital for start-up and prototype development is a challenge. As home to KCC and OIT, the IDEA project seeks to retain the students we educate and support innovators and scalable small businesses seeking to expand. Sometimes all an entrepreneur needs is \$2,500 to complete a prototype to prove their concept and seek other investment. That doesn't sound like a lot of money, but to a student or better yet a business owner who has little capital and no collateral available after the Great Recession, it is a lot.

Access to specialized business services and training is a huge challenge in rural Oregon. Innovators often need advice from an intellectual property attorney, securities attorneys, trust advisors, specialized marketing firms or web and app developers. We don't have many of these services. For small businesses and students in particular it can be cost prohibitive to access those services, much less travel to get them.

The proposed \$400,000 Regional Solutions Community Investment Fund would enable us to meet some of these needs through small grants and investments to spur economic growth in our region. Thank you for your consideration in providing the Klamath IDEA this unique opportunity to support entrepreneurs in South Central Oregon.



International Association of Fire Fighters
Local 3340-Klamath Falls Airport Fire Fighters Association

Memorandum for Oregon State Ways & Means Committee

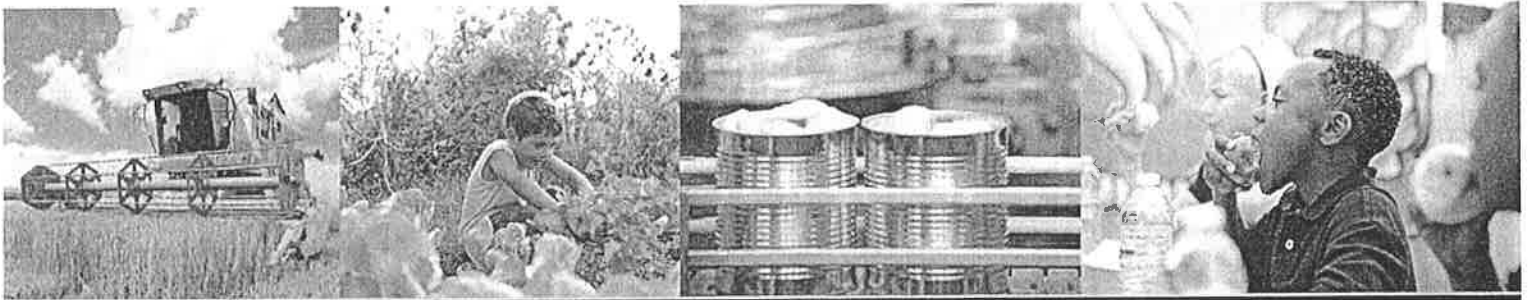
Department History- On September 13, 1990 the State of Oregon assumed responsibility of Kingsley Field Fire Department from the City of Klamath Falls.

Department Mission- Kingsley Field, 173rd Fighter Wing is the only F-15 training facility in the country. All members of our department have completed specialized Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter (ARFF) training. The F-15 and other base resources at Kingsley Field are our primary mission. Our secondary mission includes, responding to off base emergencies in the local community on a regular basis, responding to wildland fires throughout the State, hazardous material responses and an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team that responds to regional disasters. Additionally, many members contribute countless hours volunteering in our local community.

Employees- The State of Oregon employs forty-eight (48) civilian Fire Fighters. Of those, thirty (30) are employed at Kingsley Field Fire Department. The remainders are employed at Portland Airbase.

Financial impact- The Oregon Military Department (OMD) has determined that \$1,390,116 is needed to keep both Fire Departments viable for the next two (2) years. Last contract cycle 80% of the requested funds were allocated leaving a \$65,000 shortfall for the Kingsley Fire Fighters. Excess federal dollars are not authorized by the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to be used for salaries. Therefore, no extra funds are available to make up a shortfall of being funded at 80%. This shortfall could lead to drastic layoffs of up to fifteen (15) State Fire Fighters. Due to the nature of our budgetary constraints, if we don't receive 100 % of our requested amount, we will be faced with the possibility of layoffs on a continual basis.

We respectfully request the committee's support of OMD's determined budgetary need of \$1,390,116 for both Fire Departments over the next two years.



HB 2721: FARM TO SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GARDENS

Healthy food for healthy learning... and a healthy economy

Connecting Classrooms, Crops and Cafeterias

Farm to School and School Garden programs work to:

- Create market opportunities for Oregon's farmers, fishers, ranchers and food processors
- Improve youth and adults' knowledge of & attitudes toward agriculture, food and nutrition
- Increase children's consumption of fruits & vegetables
- Improve children's life-long healthy eating habits
- Bridge urban-rural divides, and bring Oregon's coastline inland
- Increase community food security by strengthening local food systems

Oregon's Farm to School Program is Working

- Legislature created positions in the Departments of Agriculture and Education in 2007 and 2008 to support farm to school and school garden programs
- Legislature created a grant program in 2011 and expanded it in 2013, to help schools to purchase foods that are produced or processed in Oregon, and to provide "agriculture, food and garden-based education"
- Funds are currently awarded by competitive grants
- Most participating districts want to continue, and new ones want to join
- Farmers and processors like selling to schools but need more stability and a stronger market

Proposed Improvements Based on Lessons Learned

To better serve producers and schools

- Give all districts a fair share of the food funds, based on school lunches served. Districts will still be required to track and report on local purchases
- Allow districts to use the funds for local foods for any school meal programs, not just lunch
- Still award the funds for "agriculture, food and garden-based education" by competitive grants, but let non-profit organizations and commodity commissions also apply
- Expand total funding to \$5.6M to benefit all districts, and to let farmers and processor count on consistent buyers

This investment will directly benefit Oregon farmers and producers, stimulating rural economies, promoting healthy eating, and stemming long-term health care costs.



HB 2721: FARM TO SCHOOL AND SCHOOL GARDENS

Healthy food for healthy learning... and a healthy economy

Districts And Communities All Over Oregon are Benefitting

Twenty-six school districts have received grants so far. Highlights include:

Bend: Piloted "Boat to School" program with fish and shrimp from the Oregon coast, and brought three fishing representatives (Oregon Trawl Commission and Bornstein Seafood) inland for "Boat To School" day. Also worked with the FFA to raise, slaughter, and serve local pork: students learned the business, agricultural, and culinary side of their project from "pork to fork" and the district is able to serve local food.

Clatskanie: Using a Youth Advocates 4 Health program where teens are trained on gardening, nutrition, and food safety. Teens serve as role models and health advocates in their school and broader community.

Gladstone: Purchased primarily locally-processed breads and cut vegetables. Developed a relationship with a local farm, Livesay Farm, from which the school bought some food and where students went to plant and harvest crops in the fall and in the spring.

Molalla: High School "Culture Club" has focused on creating and cultivating a new giant courtyard garden, which has changed the culture on campus for the better, has transformed teen's lives, and even decreased vandalism and youth problems in the community.

Roseburg: Purchased over \$3,000 in local berries and also over \$3,000 in (combined) apples and pears, plus Oregon-made breads, and lightly processed corn, beans, and other vegetables. Built a new learning garden and garden program: bought 10 yards of soil, worm bins, wheelbarrows, shovels, irrigation, teaching kits and more.

Sisters: "Feature days" in the cafeterias have highlighted local products, including: Boat to School Day featuring Oregon tuna, Oregon Burger Day featuring Oregon beef, Tillamook cheese, and Franz buns, Local Bagel Day featuring Oregon bagels, and Local Potato day featuring a potato bar.

Other participating districts in the 2013 Pilot and/or 2013-15 Grant:

Beaverton, Bethel, Centennial, Corvallis, Eugene 4J, Gladstone, Hillsboro, Joseph, Lebanon, McMinnville, North Powder, Oakridge, Ontario, Portland, Port Orford, Rainier, Salem-Keizer, Sherman, South Lane, Springfield, Yamhill-Carlton



For more information:

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April 24, 2015

Ways and Means Committee Members,

I am lifelong Oregonian of many hats. I was born, raised, and educated in Klamath County. I am a disabled US Army veteran, a Ford Opportunity Scholar, an Oregon Tech Alum (2009), parent to a K-12 student and current employee at Oregon Tech. As you will see, I am deeply committed to my community and the education of our community. It is not enough to stand up here and say "Education is important and should be funded" In order to be credible and speak to the importance of funding education at all levels, it is imperative that I weave a story that highlights how education has impacted me.

I spent my formative years attending schools in Chiloquin, OR. As a young child, I was unaware of complex topics such as poverty and education budgets. At that age, ignorance truly was bliss. My goals and understanding were much simpler, move onto the next. Like so many others I grew up with, high school was the end goal. Graduating high school was the "golden ticket" out of poverty, out of a troubled adolescence and into a life that I didn't necessarily understand but deeply desired. I didn't have a plan for how to do that or what would happen afterwards. The current situation in our schools is much different; students are coached and guided from early elementary to have educational goals and aspirations after graduation. My own fifth grader has clear goals for life after high school. College for him will happen, he hasn't chosen a school or a career path but he has chosen to see the value in education and understands the opportunities available to those who embrace a lifetime of learning. Unlike his parents, he has the benefit of not being a first generation college student, he has parents and immediate family with advanced degrees. This is something I didn't have – my parents did not attend college and did not stress the importance of academics at any level.

After high school, another "golden ticket" became available. I was far from being college ready – I hadn't taken the SAT or ACT and certainly hadn't applied to any colleges. As a result, I contacted the local US Army recruiter and declared that I had no plans for after high school – through a series of poor decisions graduating high school was a rough road and attending college needed to wait – I had some growing up and maturing to do. I decided to enter the US Army 3 weeks after graduation, move to Germany and reinvent myself. After the Army, I had access to the Montgomery GI Bill – I still didn't know what I wanted to do but finally understood that without additional education I was limiting myself. I attended an on base community college and obtained my Associates of Arts in Social Science, this would allow me to transfer to a four year institution. While attending Barstow College, I gained a passion for education. I graduated with honors from Barstow College and transferred my credits to Oregon Tech, with plans to become a teacher. I utilized the State of California's Board of Governors waiver to obtain my Associate's degree, essentially free of charge. The value of this is not lost on me and do understand that this avenue is not available to all students. For my Bachelor's degree, I had the GI Bill benefits available for 36 months, once those benefits were exhausted any remaining monetary need had to be met with other funds. My GI Bill benefits exhausted at the end of my junior year. As a single parent, I was eligible to apply for the Ford Opportunity Scholarship, I applied for this scholarship and much to my relief and amazement the Ford Family Foundation chose to invest in my education. I graduated Oregon Tech Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science – Applied Psychology, Human Communication minor and a Dispute Resolution Certificate. I left Oregon Tech with a highly sought after

education and accepted a position in Klamath Falls within a week of graduation. With my degree in hand, my dreams, even the ones I hadn't thought about, were coming to fruition.

When a position at Oregon Tech opened in the Student Success Center, I knew I had to apply. I wanted to help students reach the same level of success I had been coached into and found. I was hired as a Success Specialist in the university testing center, my foot was in the door and I was ready to invest in the success of other students. During my time in the Student Success Center, I had a hand in creating an environment that fostered education. We remodeled to provide students with tools for success and have watched as they develop into academic leaders. I have recently accepted a different position within Oregon Tech, through this position I am able to continue to foster a culture of educational aspirations and always working harder to do better. The staff and faculty at Oregon Tech work tirelessly to promote education and a success mindset in our students. Collectively, we seek to educate students from all backgrounds and prepare them to enter the workforce as highly trained professionals. Funding higher education will not only enable Oregon Tech to pursue greater opportunities for education with the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology but will also keep education affordable for all students. How to pay for college is a stressor for students as well as their families. If our push is to educate all who seek an education, it would behoove us to keep education affordable – not doing so puts education out of reach for many, if not in practice then in mindset. Keeping tuition affordable allows students to enter the workforce without crippling student loan debt and allows our alumni the financial freedom to give back.

I'd like to thank you for hosting a hearing at Oregon Tech and express my gratitude for being granted to the opportunity to address why funding education is so much more than budgetary line items. Funding education creates "golden tickets" for the entire community and shows that education is not just a goal we speak towards but a way of life for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,



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