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March 26th, 2019

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Chair Senator Michael Dembrow
900 Court Street NE, Room S-407
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 772

Chairs Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Northwest Youth Corps and our 20,000 alumni to offer our strong support for Senate Bill 772 which will establish a task force to develop and recommend an innovative response to our growing wildfire and smoke problems, while helping train the next generation of forestry and conservation workforce.

Northwest Youth Corps (NYC) is a non-profit organization that provides opportunities for youth and young adults to learn, grow, and experience success, by engaging them in paid conservation service programs throughout the state of Oregon. Our programs emphasize leadership, challenge, education, and community development. NYC partners with agencies like the U.S. Forest Service; National Park Service and Oregon Parks and Recreation to provide field-based service projects. NYC's programs serve over 600 young Oregonians annually.

We strongly support the effort to develop innovative solutions to our natural resource challenges in Oregon. Senate Bill 772 sets in motion a team of experts who will be tasked to make recommendations on how to reduce the risk of wildfire across the state, engage young people in conservation service, and increase the opportunity for the private sector to join this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 772. We urge your strong support for the proposal before you today and we remain committed to helping the task force find success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP'.

Jeff Parker
Executive Director