



Stanford University

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April 12, 2019

Ways and Means Education Subcommittee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Ways and Means Education Subcommittee,

I am writing to express my support for continued state funding for OCCRI, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. Since its inception in 2009, OCCRI's vision of achieving a climate-prepared Northwest has significantly helped the state and the region via climate change adaptation planning, connecting science with decision making, and fundamental climate change research.

My current postdoctoral research position at Stanford University is a direct result of the research, education, and experience I received at Oregon State through OCCRI. OCCRI funded most of my masters and doctoral degrees through the NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment and the Climate Impacts Research Consortium. This support allowed for me to research present-day and future coastal flooding and erosion hazards, a theme critical for climate change resilience at regional, county and community scales.

Through OCCRI, I was able to advance our fundamental understanding of extreme water levels along the Washington, Oregon, and California coastlines while participating in knowledge to action networks in counties and tribal communities. With local communities, I was able to connect my scientific inquiries to our community partners' needs to produce actionable science, relevant to people and policies. My current appointment at Stanford continues to develop actionable insights for resilience planning in the San Francisco Bay area, through partnerships with San Mateo County, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the city of San Jose. This fall I will begin an Assistant Professorship at the University of Florida where I will continue this research on the front lines of sea level rise. I feel that my experiences through OCCRI was essential for my continued work in building resilient and sustainable coastal communities in light of flooding hazards.

If OCCRI no longer existed, I worry that students involved in climate change science would miss out on the many opportunities I had in connecting important science to people and places. In this time more than ever, our future workforce should be educated on climate change, and our communities should have academic partners that help to advance their climate resilience through cutting edge science that they themselves cannot fund.

In summary, I urge the Education Subcommittee to continue to support the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. The State's investment has been significantly leveraged to provide a broad range of unique and critical services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Serafin".

Dr. Katherine Serafin