



Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon, Co-Chairs
Committee on Joint Ways and Means, sub-committee on Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 22, 2021

Dear Committee Co-Chairs,

Re: Support for Restoring the Base Budget of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

The Pudding River Watershed Council operates in Marion and Clackamas Counties. We have creatively established ourselves as resourceful conservation brokers. Over the past four years, we have provided roughly 4,000 free, surplus trees to land managers throughout the watershed, but many more are needed to protect public peace, health, and safety. We have seen disparate communities come together around distributing free trees, restoring oak habitat, and volunteering at planting events.

We write to express our concern regarding the implications of a reduced base budget as described in House Bill 5038. We are a nimble and resilient organization because of rich relationships with our partners. As a member organization of Oregon Conservation Partnership, we have harnessed value around a low-cost restoration supply chain, but without the essential human capital provided by partner organizations, our work will be compromised.

We emphasize the importance of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. The Pudding River Watershed is dominated by diverse and productive working lands. This program is critical to protecting fish and wildlife habitat in our locale.

We support Policy Package 100 and 110. Funding human capital is essential to carrying the Governor's 100-Year Water Vision forward, communicating conservation outcomes, and developing focused partnerships.

Please approve a budget that allows future lottery revenue to restore the base funding for Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and provides the additional staffing in Policy Package 100.

Sincerely,

Anna C Rankin

Anna Rankin
Executive Director

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