

## Written Testimony in support of SB 5513

POP request for increasing STEM Hub funding in next biennium

Good afternoon. My name is Rob Hillhouse and I am an educator in the Beaverton School District, and the parent of children in the Portland Public School District. **I respectfully ask you to support SB 5513 and as a result increase STEM Hub funding in the next biennium.**

I plan Summer School for Migrant students and English Language Learners at the middle and high school grades, and since 2015 I have partnered with our local STEM Hub, the PDX STEM Metro Partnership to do so. I am proud to say that our STEM Hub shares my passion for bringing STEM experiences to students who have been both underserved and overlooked by our education system. The support provided by our STEM hub includes:

- On-demand consultancy and mentoring
- Ongoing professional development support
- Grant support to fund a STEM Summer School Coordinator
- Grant support to allow teachers to plan STEM units
- Grant support to purchase materials and resources
- Grant support to take our students on field trips
- Providing assessments to ensure we gather data on student success

As a result of support from the PDX STEM Metro Partnership we have been able to offer a stronger STEM learning experience to our students. A student, when surveyed in 2019 on what they learned during Summer School, said:

More idea and thinking in Math, Science, and Humanities In Math, I learn how to write the check and checkbook, Integers, whole number, opposite number, negative and positive number. In Science I learn how to build tower that can stay in earthquake and I learn how heavy and damage that earthquake can cause. In Humanities I learn more word(adjective) to help make reading more interesting, learn how to do presentation in front of people, learn how to write the paragraph, and learn how to respect people while they doing their presentation.

With more funding we could provide so much more service to our students. Looking to a post-COVID-19 Oregon, investing in ways that allow students to interact, build, explore, and get outside and have new experiences together seems to me like money well spent.

With appreciation,



Rob Hillhouse