



BRETT A. PRUESS
Circuit Court Judge
(541) 396-4180

CIRCUIT COURT OF OREGON
Fifteenth Judicial District
250 North Baxter Street
Coquille, OR 97423

Coquille Courthouse
250 North Baxter St.
Coquille, OR 97423

May 6, 2021

RE: *In Support of Common Ground Mediation*

Dear Co-chairs and committee members,

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for Common Ground Mediation (CGM). Among other services, CGM provides free high-quality mediation to litigants struggling with landlord-tenant disputes, small claims actions, and debt collection cases. The services provided by CGM meet a critical need in our community generally and my courtroom specifically. CGM helps families, neighbors, property owners, tenants, and others resolve often emotionally charged disputes. The services provided by CGM are invaluable and very much appreciated.

CGM is an excellent community resource. I have personally witnessed the skilled mediators of CGM facilitate just and mutually beneficial agreements to settle contentious issues between parties. In particular, CGM's work with FED/eviction court has been a tremendous benefit to landlords, tenants, and the overloaded court system. Judges, attorneys, and litigants all appreciate the services provided by CGM.

Additionally, CGM has helped resolve issues when the court system may not be affordable or appropriate for the parties involved. In small claims court, skilled CGM mediators often facilitate agreements or payment plans between creditors and debtors; agreements that avoid unnecessary and prohibitive court costs. Parties to such disputes often compliment the CGM mediators for helping them understand the other side's position, effectively communicating their own position, and crafting solutions that meet the needs of the parties. CGM makes alternative dispute resolution a possibility for litigants in Coos County.

CGM is free, effective, professional, and valued in our community. It is important to litigants in my courtroom and all residents of Coos County that CGM continue to be available to assist in finding peaceable, affordable, and just resolutions to conflicts.

If you have any questions or require additional information relating to my experience with CGM, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Hon. Brett A. Pruess
Circuit Court Judge



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

School of Law

May 10, 2021

Oregon State Legislature
Education Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-chairs Frederick and McLain and committee members,

The above letter of support highlights one of the fifteen community dispute resolution centers that receive grant funds through the Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution. OOCDR uploaded the letter to OLIS on their behalf.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Sponsler".

Patrick Sponsler, MPA
sponsler@uoregon.edu
OOCDR Administrator

Oregon Office for Community Dispute Resolution

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