



3/8/23

Senate Education Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Debrow and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is John Link and I am a contracted Finance Accountant for various types of Oregon organizations and also live here.

I am writing to ask for your support of SB600, which increases critical funding for Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center. **Six Rivers provides mediation and training for our communities in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler counties.** They also cover Klickitat and Skamania counties in Washington.

Six Rivers core work is to help community members navigate conflict in an affordable way, during some of the most pressing issues of their lives. They receive critical funding, in part, through the Oregon Office of Community Dispute Resolution, located within the University of Oregon Law School. **Despite doubly increased caseloads, priority requests from schools and community partners, this flat base funding has not increased to meet the need.**

Please support SB 600, to ensure that Six Rivers is sustainably funded to address the needs of our community members. **They help people resolve disputes faster and cheaper than courts, help keep people housed, teach people how to constructively resolve problems with one another, contributing to healthier, safer, and more peaceful communities.**

This funding is critical for Six Rivers to continue to provide the core mediation and training services that they do.

Please consider how this bill could impact the well-being of the citizenry that is often disenfranchised and have no positive way to resolve the problems they face. In a time in our country with such a WIDE SCHISM, the need for mediation is not only critical but an apparent solution!!!!

**Please support SB600** to sustainably fund the vital community work they do so well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John R. Link". The signature is written in a cursive style.

John Link