Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education**,**

I am writing in support of increased funding for the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program. I have benefited from this program as both a middle and high school public school teacher and as a graduate student. I am ecstatic that students, teachers and graduate students may have access to the new R/V Taani as part of this program in the future.

While teaching at Waldport High and Middle School, many of my courses utilized programs provided by Oregon Sea Grant. These programs and my courses provided students with the foundational knowledge required to ask real, testable, questions within science and oceanography. As long as those questions could be tested in a classroom, I could support them. Many students had questions bigger than the classroom and they had dreams in life that were larger than the classroom as well. Through the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program, those students applied for and were granted a position one of the cruises, lead by Tracy Crews. These were life changing opportunities for all students, but especially for my community, where 20% of students are experiencing homelessness at any given time. From my cohort of students who participated, one completed an internship in Blue Technology, went on to an undergraduate in Marine Science and participate in the Sea Education Association semester at sea. Another student has continued his love of science but with a chemistry focus at University. For all of my students, the opportunity to ask big questions and have the potential to go to sea through this program, opened their minds to ask bigger questions about the world around them.

In 2021, as a graduate student at Portland State University, I was provided the opportunity, through the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program, to be an Assistant Chief Scientist on the R/V Oceanus. Due to the pandemic, we sailed with a skeleton science party and pivoted to collect samples while completing remote outreach to classrooms from 5th grade to undergraduates. This provided me the opportunity to experience the communication required between the chief scientist, marine technicians, and Captain to successfully complete a research cruise, in the dynamic environment of the sea. Having a ship and Captain with specific experience supporting new Chief Scientists, students and graduate students was invaluable. The grant that supported this cruise is aligned with a course that focuses on the oxygen minimum zone off the Oregon Coast. Undergraduate students from all over the University took this course in hopes that their research proposal will be selected for participation on this cruise.

Over the past decade, as a teacher and a graduate student, I have directly benefited from the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program, but the full magnitude of impact extends far beyond the hull of the ship. Participation on the ship can be a life changing experience, but the programs mere existence encourages students to ask bigger questions and dream bigger, because they might be selected to participate. The functionality and accessibility of the R/V Taani will allow more students of differing ability levels to test even bigger questions at sea. Having tracked the

build progress of the R/V Taani and benefited from the Oceangoing Research Vessel Program, I support an increase in funding in order to utilize the R/V Tanni as the flagship of the program.

Best,

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