

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE SB5506

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April 21, 2023, 5:00-7:00pm, Umpqua Community College, Roseburg, OR

Hello. Thank you for the opportunity to give a testimony tonight. My name is Andrea Scofield. I serve as the Executive Director at Camp Lutherwood Oregon located 30 miles NW of Eugene in Lane County. Camp Lutherwood Oregon has hosted outdoor school since the early 1970's. We are a year-round camp and retreat center where we serve youth, families, adults, and other organizations in the region.

Voters overwhelmingly passed Measure 99 in 2016, and since then over 157,436 students have attended Outdoor School! The lottery funding dedicated by Measure 99 funds a week of Outdoor School for every 5th or 6th-grade student in Oregon.

Camp Lutherwood Oregon was involved in 2015-2016 advocating in Salem on behalf of Outdoor School for all. We fully support getting students and teachers outdoors in a unique learning environment that gives them experiences with others and the earth in ways the normal classroom does not offer.

I urge you to continue fully funding Outdoor School so that every Oregon 5th or 6th-grade student may attend Outdoor School. I believe that this investment pays dividends both in the lives of students and in the health of Oregon and my community.

I have been serving in the year-round camping industry for over 25 years. Over 2400 students attended Outdoor School at Camp Lutherwood in 2022. Each week this spring has students from all over Lane County and beyond attending Outdoor School at Lutherwood.

We all have observed the different ways the world has shifted since the global COVID pandemic. Whether a student lives in a city, a small town, or on a farm, every child in Oregon deserves this opportunity. Outdoor School increases academic performance, builds important life skills, provides the kind of hands-on learning students can't get in the classroom, engages students in the sciences, and importantly, it gives kids a break from technology as well as so many other things that build a caring, kind and just world. Being with others that aren't just like you and having shared experiences is critical for raising balanced and caring people.

You have the opportunity, with the voter's strong direction, to continue to ensure that all Oregon fifth or sixth-grade students have the opportunity to participate in Outdoor School.

Outdoor School unites our state in a way that no other state investment can. At Outdoor School, every student will have the experience of learning about our natural resources in the outdoors while building stronger relationships with their teachers and other students. Outdoor School has become an experience that is shared by students across Oregon—urban, rural, suburban. It has become a part of being Oregonian.

I urge you to continue to allocate the funding directed by the voters so that all Oregon 5th or 6th grade student can attend outdoor school. Thank you.