

BOARD MEMBERS

May 3, 2023

Deschutes County
Commissioner
Anthony DeBone,
Chair

Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Vice Chair Senator Fred Girod
Co-Vice Chair Representative David Gomberg
Co-Vice Chair Representative Greg Smith
& Members

City of La Pine Councillor
Cathi Van Damme
Vice-Chair

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Crook County Commissioner
Jerry Brummer

Re: House Bill 5025 – Higher Education Coordinating Commission Oregon Youth Works Program - SUPPORT

City of Bend Councillor
Mike Riley

Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

Jefferson County
Commissioner
Wayne Fording

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on Senate Bill 5506 on behalf of the Oregon Conservation Corps Funding Opportunities. On behalf of the cities and counties in Central Oregon, the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council is in **support** of House Bill 5025 – Higher Education Coordinating Commission – Workforce Investment Related Programs and Funding.

Confederated Tribes of
Warm Springs,
Tribal Council Member
Vacant

City of Culver Councillor
David Beck

Senate Bill 762 established the Oregon Conservation Corps and the Oregon Conservation Corps Funds. This funding allowed opportunities for the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council to partner with the Heart of Oregon Corps to create the Central Oregon Wildfire Workforce Partnership. Youth crews, comprised of local at risk youth, conduct fuels reduction work on private and public property within Jefferson, Deschutes, and Crook Counties. This work is free of charge for property owners and is prioritized for underserved and low-income communities and ranges from thinning, chipping, and ladder fuels reduction in natural areas to create defensible spaces around homes, neighborhoods, and critical infrastructure. Through this program youth gain essential mentoring and on the job training, certifications, and knowledge in fire fuels reduction practices.

City of Redmond Councillor
Clifford Evelyn

City of Metolius Councillor
Carl Elliott

City of Prineville
Councillor Raymond Law

City of Madras Councillor
Gabriel Soliz

Since these funds were awarded, fuels reduction projects have created much needed defensible space around and within fire prone areas throughout Oregon. In addition, the funding has connected youth to their communities, while also gaining important life changing skills.

City of Sisters Councillor
Susan Cobb

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Agribusiness & Agriculture –
Phil Fine

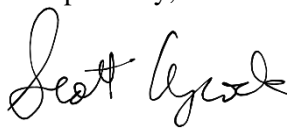
The communities in Central Oregon are surrounded by fuels that create a catastrophic fire risk. This funding is essential to protecting our residents. We ask for your support of House Bill 5025.

Timber & Wood Products –
Tim Deboodt

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Deschutes County Appointed –
Jay Patrick
Chris Piper
James Lewis

Respectfully,



Scott Aycock