

*Good evening cochairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the committee. My name is Dave Gianotti, and I am the superintendent of Riddle School District and have worked in the district for the past 20 years. I am here on behalf of Riddle Roots Community Projects.*

*I am here in support of these projects because of the possibilities of what they will do to support my community and my school district where 15% of our student population is homeless and nearly 70% live in poverty, and many others who live in substandard housing. Riddle School District is a community of underserved youth.*

*As partners with the riddle school district, the Riddle Roots Projects will help the school district by supplying time, activities and facilities that the school district struggles to provide during the regular school day. The ability of Riddle Roots to provide students with showers, counseling, laundry services, and to address their food insecurities will go a long way in assisting the schools to focus on student's education without having them miss instructional time for these crucial and badly needed services.*

*These projects will also serve our students educationally with homework assistance, STEAM Projects, and other clubs such as gardening and cooking, which will also serve to improve student's health. The project will allow students to get exercise during bad weather such as recreational sports, casual games, and other physical activities.*

*Through the years, our local schools of South Umpqua and Riddle have tried to pass bond measures to improve our facilities to allow many of these activities, but these bond measures have failed primarily due to the poverty of the area. Such a facility will help our schools and our community by supporting our underserved youth with their needs and allowing them a safe place to go after school.*

*I thank you for listening and look forward to your support in this effort.*