



**HOOD RIVER COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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Co-Chairs Broadman and Evans, and members of the committee,

My name is Matt Ellis and I am the District Attorney for Hood River County, Oregon. My office regularly refers cases to Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center's Circles of Peace Restorative Justice Program. Now in its pilot year, this program was developed based on a comprehensive community readiness assessment, which demonstrated strong public support for restorative justice as an option for victims and survivors of crime.

I write to request that the subcommittee pass the Criminal Justice Commission budget with enough funds for the Restorative Justice Grant Program. If this item is not funded, we anticipate that a great deal of important, effective restorative justice work in Oregon would go away or stall.

Restorative Justice focuses on the harmful impact of criminal conduct to not only an individual, but the community as a whole, holding a person who causes a harm truly accountable for those actions.

Restorative Justice has added another tool to our toolbox when it comes to handling criminal behavior in our community. It is highly effective in the appropriate cases. I was part of the development plan with Six Rivers when I served as the Wasco County District Attorney. In this pilot year, Six Rivers has been active for cases through the Columbia River Gorge, in both Hood River and Wasco Counties.

Continued funding for the Criminal Justice Commission's Restorative Justice Grant Program will allow Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center, and other community-based programs across Oregon, to continue restorative justice work.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Matthew E. Ellis
Hood River District Attorney