

Submitter: Jeff Blackwood
On Behalf Of: Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5525

Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition (EOC3)
PO Box 485
Pendleton, OR 97801
April 9, 2025

Higher Education Coordination Commission
Public Universities: Public Service Mission

Re: Support for OCCRI and OCS

Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition (EOC3) would like to lend our support for the agency-requested budget for OCCRI, and sustained funding to support the office of the state climatologist. This means support for a stable, inflation-adjusted level of support for OCCRI.

EOC3 is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to education, communication, adaptation, and solutions for a changing climate. We are diverse eastern Oregon residents who strive to learn together and how to live with a changing climate. We promote a sustainable future. Over the past few years, EOC3 has engaged with OCCRI several times to share their assessments, both through the media and with our mailing list of about 320 people. OCCRI staff have presented programs and served as a well-respected resource as EOC3 strives to share vital climate information with our region.

Climate change and the future it may bring touches all aspects of our lives and those of future generations. Helping our citizenry to deal with these impacts, develop solutions, and adapt to the changing climate will serve our communities in preparing and coping with our changing environment.

To bring about the transformations necessary for a sustainable future with resilient communities, widespread education about climate change is essential. With Oregon's vast diversity of places and ecosystems, information developed by OCCRI will continue to be extremely valuable.

Please sustain these vital programs that help us all cope with our changing climate.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Jeff Blackwood

Chair, Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition