



Office of the City Administrator
Vivian Satterfield, Chief Sustainability Officer



April 16, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chairs Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Portland I would like to express my strong support for the services and resources provided by the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), the Oregon Climate Service (OCS) and the office of the state climatologist of Oregon. Portland has relied on the climate services, data, reports and tools developed by OCCRI and OCS for more than a decade now, including the biennial Oregon climate assessments, climate data projections and outlooks. These resources have been greatly valuable to Portland and were essential to our prior climate change risk and vulnerability assessments.

Moving forward, Portland continues to need the expertise and knowledge of OCCRI staff and the Oregon state climatologist to interpret, synthesize and summarize complex technical climate data and projections to help inform the City's climate change resilience, climate action and environmental justice planning. For example, Portland is currently partnering with OCCRI to conduct a new climate change risk assessment for 2025 using downscaled global climate models. This work will set the foundation for the City's next Climate Action Plan, and it is vital that the climate projections and associated hazards are supported by the state-of-the-art science we know OCCRI provides.

Also, given the City's experiences with a range of extreme weather events (droughts, heat waves, smoke waves and ice storms), which have impacted our community members, infrastructure and natural resources over the last several years, we continue to greatly value the regular insights and communications from the state climatologist to help interpret these events, and the historical vs. unprecedented nature of them in real time. These events disproportionately impact and burden our BIPOC, low-income communities, and vulnerable populations. Understanding these accelerating extreme conditions and preparing for future impacts is a priority for the City of Portland.

The value of OCCRI, OCS and the office of the state climatologist of Oregon is clear to the City of Portland. I therefore respectfully request and encourage the Subcommittee on Education to allocate sufficient operating funds to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to support OCCRI and OCS at Oregon State University, so these offices can maintain the critical climate services and resources that communities across the state, including Portland, rely on. Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

Vivian Satterfield
Chief Sustainability Officer
City of Portland