

April 25, 2025

TO: Oregon Ways and Means Joint Subcommittee on Education

RE: Support for Higher Education Coordinating Commission Workforce Programs – Oregon Conservation Corps

Dear Co-Chair Sollman, Co-Chair Ruiz, and members of the committee,

For the record, waalisaad nanokens, gewasasis (my name is) Lani Jackson, noo a' (I am) an enrolled Klamath Tribal member and reside in Chiloquin in Klamath County. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission Workforce Programs, specifically the Oregon Conservation Corps.

I joined Lomakatsi Restoration Project's Oregon Conservation Corps program to provide crew support and add capacity to the training program, as I am a seasonal wildland firefighter with the U.S. Forest Service Fremont-Winema National Forest out of the Chiloquin Ranger District, going into my sixth season. I love my job as a seasonal wildland fire fighter and want to make a difference during the off-fire season by reducing hazardous fuels around the communities of southern Oregon, especially Chiloquin, which is the seat of the tribal community.

The OCC program is helping me to further develop my skills in forestry and fire management, while sharing what I know with other Corps members. After the program, I will return to my seasonal job with the Forest Service and during the remaining six months of the year, I plan to continue supporting Lomakatsi's Indian Youth Service Corps and Oregon Conservation Corps programs because these are great programs that are helping the land, our communities, and people.

I ask that you continue to support funding for the Oregon Conservation Corps program in this next budget cycle so young adults like me can benefit from this incredible opportunity to serve our communities.