



April 28, 2025

RE: Senate Bill 5525

Our communities face increasingly complex challenges, and the most effective way to address them is through collaboration, fostering meaningful dialogue, encouraging personal accountability, and resolving issues at their roots—before they escalate and strain public resources.

The support we receive through Resolution Oregon empowers community-driven solutions to conflicts, easing the burden on the court system for minor disputes. This funding builds stability for children of divorcing parents, helps small businesses and residents navigate landlord-tenant challenges, and mitigates housing instability. It allows us to take proactive steps: training community members in de-escalation techniques, creating restorative pathways to address harms, and nurturing a new generation of mediators dedicated to strengthening our communities.

While I may be a direct beneficiary of this funding, and therefore not an entirely neutral voice, I encourage you to consider the perspectives of trusted community leaders, whose endorsements are included in the following letters.

We urge you to continue championing funding for community-based dispute resolution and collaborative problem-solving. Your leadership can ensure that these initiatives remain a cornerstone of our shared commitment to justice, equity, and resource stewardship.

Sincerely,

Andrea Pacheco
Executive Director

Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center

Home to: Oregon's USDA Certified Agricultural Mediation Program



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

511 Washington St, Ste. 101 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2520 • f: [541] 506-2551 • www.co.wasco.or.us

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April 25, 2025

Senator Janeen Sollman
Representative Ricki Ruiz

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 5525 –Fully Fund Dispute Resolution

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz and Members of the Committee.

I write today in support of Community Dispute Resolution, which passes through Resolution Oregon at the University of Oregon and helps to provide valuable education and mediation services all across the State.

One notable example highlighting the value of Community Dispute Resolution is a recent instance where I sought assistance from Six Rivers Dispute Resolution to support a small city's council facing significant challenges. With the potential to escalate and impact the community's access to crucial resources, having a community dispute resolution center available to assist is invaluable in providing a constructive pathway for bridging divides and fostering mutual understanding.

Resolution Oregon's statewide network provides conflict resolution education for youth and adult community members, mediation services, and connects people to local support service providers (e.g., financial resources, legal aid, rehousing & credit counseling). For more than 40 years, these services have shown to help communities improve graduation rates, reduce crime recidivism rates, and resolve disputes faster and cheaper than courts. These preventative services help reduce community costs for incarceration, health care, associated court costs, and keep people housed who are at risk of foreclosure and eviction.

Please help our vulnerable community members by investing in cost-effective mediation services that are complementary to other avenues for justice. Please fully fund Dispute Resolution in the Statewide Programs section of SB 5525. Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincere regards,

Phil Brady
Wasco County Commissioner



CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
GILLIAM, HOOD RIVER, SHERMAN, WASCO, AND WHEELER COUNTIES
309 State St.
Hood River, OR 97031
541-386-3535

Karen Ostrye
Presiding Judge

John A. Olson
Circuit Judge

Marion T Weatherford
Circuit Judge

John A. Wolf
Circuit Judge

Rian R. Beach
Trial Court Administrator

7th Judicial District

309 State Street

Hood River, OR 97031

April 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the 7th Judicial District, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center in their application for funding Community Dispute Resolution Services through Resolution Oregon.

The 7th Judicial District has had the privilege of collaborating with Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center for many years, witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of their mission to empower and train individuals and organizations to resolve disputes in healthy, civil, and peaceful ways. Specifically, their mediation opportunities and community outreach efforts have consistently demonstrated a commitment to fostering harmony and constructive dialogue.

The work of Six Rivers aligns seamlessly with our shared values and objectives. Their emphasis on equipping people with the tools and strategies necessary for managing conflicts effectively not only addresses immediate needs but also nurtures long-term growth, understanding, and respect within the community.

This grant funding will enable Six Rivers to sustain their efforts, reach individuals and organizations, enhance accessibility, and refine the resources necessary for impactful dispute resolution. We firmly believe that their continued success will yield tangible, far-reaching benefits to our community and beyond.

We wholeheartedly endorse Six Rivers and their application for this funding. Please feel free to contact me directly at (541) 645-5233 or rian.r.beach@ojd.state.or.us should you require additional information or clarification.

Thank you for your consideration.

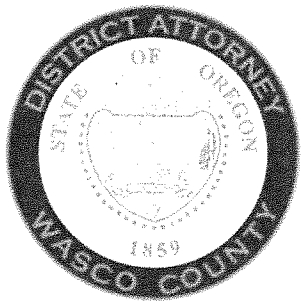
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Rian Beach".

Rian Beach

Trial Court Administrator

7th Judicial District



Kara K. Davis, District Attorney
Sally Carpenter, Senior Deputy District Attorney
Caleb Berthelsen, Deputy District Attorney
511 Washington St., Ste. 304 • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2680 • f: [541] 506-2681 • www.co.wasco.or.us

Wasco County District Attorney's office
511 Washington St. Suite 304
The Dalles, OR 97058

April 22, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Wasco County District Attorney's office, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center.

Wasco County has had the privilege of collaborating with Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center, referring cases to them, and witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of their mission to empower and train individuals and organizations to resolve disputes in healthy, civil, and peaceful ways.

Six Rivers' emphasis on equipping people with the tools and strategies necessary for managing conflicts effectively not only addresses immediate needs but also nurtures long-term growth, understanding, and respect within the community.

Continued grant funding will enable Six Rivers to sustain their efforts, reach individuals and organizations, enhance accessibility, and refine the resources necessary for impactful dispute resolution. We firmly believe that their continued success will yield tangible, far-reaching benefits to our community and beyond.

We wholeheartedly endorse Six Rivers and their application for this funding. Please feel free to contact me directly, should you require additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,


Kara Davis
District Attorney
Wasco County
Karad/co.wasco.or.us



YOUTH SERVICES

202 East Fifth Street • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2660 • f: [541] 506-2661 • www.co.wasco.or.us

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Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
855 Summer Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Grant Selection Committee,

On behalf of Wasco County Youth Services I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center.

Wasco County Youth Services has had the privilege of collaborating with Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center, referring cases to them, and witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of their mission to empower and train individuals and organizations to resolve disputes in healthy, civil, and peaceful ways.

Six Rivers' emphasis on equipping people with the tools and strategies necessary for managing conflicts effectively not only addresses immediate needs but also nurtures long-term growth, understanding, and respect within the community. Continued grant funding will enable Six Rivers to sustain their efforts, reach individuals and organizations, enhance accessibility, and refine the resources necessary for impactful dispute resolution. We firmly believe that their continued success will yield tangible, far-reaching benefits to our community and beyond.

We wholeheartedly endorse Six Rivers and their application for this funding. Please feel free to contact me directly, should you require additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Molly Rogers, MJM
Director,
Wasco County Youth Services
Mollyr@co.wasco.or.us



**HOOD RIVER COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MATTHEW E. ELLIS**

309 STATE STREET · HOOD RIVER, OREGON 97031
(541) 386-3103 · FAX (541) 387-6804

April 23, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Hood River District Attorney's Office, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center.

The Hood River District Attorney's Office has had the privilege of collaborating with Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center, referring cases to them, and witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of their mission to empower and train individuals and organizations to resolve disputes in healthy, civil, and peaceful ways.

Six Rivers' emphasis on equipping people with the tools and strategies necessary for managing conflicts effectively not only addresses immediate needs but also nurtures long-term growth, understanding, and respect within the community.

Continued grant funding will enable Six Rivers to sustain their efforts, reach individuals and organizations, enhance accessibility, and refine the resources necessary for impactful dispute resolution. We firmly believe that their continued success will yield tangible, far-reaching benefits to our community and beyond.

We wholeheartedly endorse Six Rivers and their application for this funding. Please feel free to contact me directly, should you require additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Matt Ellis

District Attorney

Hood River District Attorney's Office

matt.ellis@hoodrivercounty.gov



April 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Columbia Gorge Community College, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center in their application for funding Community Dispute Resolution Services through Resolution Oregon.

Columbia Gorge Community College has had the privilege of collaborating with Six Rivers Dispute Resolution Center over the past year, witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of their mission to empower and train individuals and organizations to resolve disputes in healthy, civil, and peaceful ways. Their professional development training for the Student Services team, focusing on de-escalation, has consistently demonstrated a commitment to fostering harmony and constructive dialogue.

The work of Six Rivers aligns seamlessly with our shared values and objectives. Their emphasis on equipping people with the tools and strategies necessary for managing conflicts effectively not only addresses immediate needs but also nurtures long-term growth, understanding, and respect within the community.

This grant funding will enable Six Rivers to sustain its efforts, reach individuals and organizations, enhance accessibility, and refine the resources necessary for impactful dispute resolution. Their continued success will yield tangible, far-reaching benefits to our community and beyond.

We wholeheartedly endorse Six Rivers and their application for this funding. Please feel free to contact me directly at kaparicio@cgcc.edu should you require additional information or clarification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karly Aparicio
Interim Vice President of Student Services
541-506-6232
kaparicio@cgcc.edu