



NATIONAL POLICY CONSENSUS CENTER
Hatfield School of Government

April 29, 2025

The Honorable Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Ricki Ruiz, Co-Chair
The Honorable Lew Frederick, Member
The Honorable Suzanne Weber, Member
The Honorable Susan McLain, Member
The Honorable Hoa Nguyen, Member
The Honorable Boomer Wright, Member
The Honorable Dwayne Yunker, Member
Joint Subcommittee on Education, Joint Ways & Means Committee
Oregon State Legislature

Subject: Written testimony for Oregon Consensus, statewide Public Policy Dispute Resolution program based at the Hatfield of Government at Portland State University

Co-Chairs Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz, and members of the subcommittee:

As Director of Oregon Consensus (OC), the state of Oregon's public policy dispute resolution program located at the Mark Hatfield School of Government within Portland State University, I am pleased to submit this written testimony to the Joint Subcommittee on Education of Ways and Means. You will find in this testimony packet a set of over 20 letters of support from a range of elected officials, non profit organizations, and various trade and government associations who have been a part of our processes. They can best speak to the value of our services.

For over 20 years OC has been a statewide service organization helping communities and governments work on consensus-based resolution of complex policy issues facing the state. Issue areas span all corners of our public spaces including natural resources, energy, community resilience, education, arts and culture, public health and human services. With a demonstration record of over 200 projects, we manage about 5-10 projects at any given time.

In conjunction with the Office of Community Dispute Resolution Centers (now known as Resolution Oregon) housed at the University of Oregon, we are requesting support for the Governor's recommended budget allocation of **\$3,373,121**, split between PSU (35%) and UO (65%), in accordance with OAR 715-013-0066(6). This level of support will allow OC and Resolution Oregon to continue to provide essential mediation and consensus based problem solving services at current levels to the communities of the state of Oregon for the 2025-27 biennium.

What does Oregon Consensus do? We use a third party lens to assess a conflict situation to determine whether conditions are right for collaborative issue resolution; and from there design an appropriate process to meet the needs for policy resolution. We bring expertise in collaborative governance and mediation to facilitate a consensus seeking process, assist with

conflict engagement, and maintain communication and information management systems on behalf of the group.

What makes us unique? The Oregon Consensus staff team and our pre-qualified affiliated partners are expert impartial third-party conflict engagement and agreement seeking practitioners; engaging the services of Oregon Consensus is streamlined through an existing intergovernmental agreement and this roster of our affiliates. Our process serves as an alternative to costly, often time-consuming legal or other adversarial forums seeking resolution on matters of public interest. This in turn strengthens the capacities and social health of our communities and enables governments to set and implement policies that are durable and work for the various communities they serve. Finally, our distinct position as an independent third party institution, sitting at the intersection of governments and communities, lends credibility to and integrity of problem solving endeavors of the people and governments in Oregon.

PROJECT EXAMPLES

Creating Efficiencies and Leveraging Partnerships in the Arts and Culture Community

A joint committee of the Oregon Arts Commission (Arts Commission) and Oregon Cultural Trust (Cultural Trust) worked together and came to a unanimous consensus on a proposed framework for combining the Arts Commission and Cultural Trust and establishing a new semi-independent state agency, with the full support of their leadership and commitments to build a durable and sustainable entity that ensures a thriving arts and culture community across Oregon. This was developed into HB 3048 with broad support of the arts and culture community.

Developing a Road Map for Future Offshore Wind Energy Development

Building off an informal work group's recommendation, the Department of Land Conservation and Development is engaging interested and affected parties to help formalize a road map and exit ramps for developing offshore wind.

Finding Sustainable Solutions for Funding Wildfire

At the Legislature's direction, the statewide agencies responsible for wildfire management brought together a robust Work Group to study, deliberate and work toward agreement on a set of sustainable funding solutions for the wildfire readiness, response and mitigation system in Oregon.

Saving Lives with Newborn Screening

An established legislatively mandated advisory board of doctors and other experts is providing strategic advice to the legislature and the Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program about scientifically sound ways to meet the needs of families whose infants are born with life threatening disorders.

Preserving Irrigation and Wetlands in Harney County

A collaborative group of ranchers, local government, conservationists, Tribes, and others is implementing more than \$6 million in on-the-ground improvement projects to support traditional flood irrigation practices and migratory bird habitat conservation.

We appreciate the time and consideration of the funding request for Oregon Consensus in the 2025 state budget and are happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Thank you,

Robin Harkless

Robin Harkless
Director, Oregon Consensus

Compilation of Letters of Support for Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus

Legislators	Representative Darcia Grayber Representative Ken Helm Representative Bobby Levy Representative Mark Owens
County Commissioners	Coos County Commissioner: John Sweet Lake County Commissioners: Barry Shullanberger, James Williams, Mark Albertson Umatilla County Commissioner: Dan Dorran
Tribes	Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI) Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR)
Associations	American Lung Association BlueGreen Alliance NW Insurance Association Oregon Environmental Council Oregon Health Leadership Council The Nature Conservancy Water for Eastern Oregon (H2OEO) West Coast Seafood Processors Association
Private	Timberline
Other	Mark Bennett, Retired Baker County Commissioner Partnership for Lake Abert and the Chewaucan (PLACe) Dr. Camille Preus, retired Executive Director of the Oregon Community College Association Keith Tymchuk, former Mayor of Reedsport and former Commissioner of the Port of Umpqua Reed Wagner, Executive Director of the Willamette Falls Locks Authority Willamette Partnership

Please note letters of support from Representative Darcia Grayber, Representative Ken Helm, Representative Mark Owens, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) were submitted directly from them to the legislative body for consideration.

January 16, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As a proud representative of rural Oregonians and a strong advocate for community-based problem-solving, I am writing to express my support for two essential statewide public service programs at Portland State University: Oregon Consensus and Oregon Solutions. Oregon Consensus, a cornerstone of the state's dispute resolution services, and Oregon Solutions, a program focused on the collaborative implementation of community-based solutions, are vital resources that address complex issues across Oregon effectively and equitably.

I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact of these programs and the value they bring for Oregonians. I've personally worked with Oregon Solutions and seen the progress they can make between bringing together rural Oregonians with wildlife management—specifically with the elk and deer populations along our coastal regions. These programs provide critical support to communities across the state, helping them navigate challenging issues, build consensus, and implement sustainable, cost-effective solutions. This is the type of problem solving we need in Oregon.

I am thankful the legislature has recognized the importance of these programs and their significant contributions to our state. I respectfully urge you to restore their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL), as outlined in the Governor's budget. Ensuring these programs are fully funded will allow them to continue their critical work in uniting stakeholders and fostering meaningful, long-lasting change for Oregon communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Representative Bobby Levy
House District 58
Oregon House of Representatives



JOHN W. SWEET
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
225 N. Adams Street, Coquille, Oregon 97423
(541) 396-7541
FAX (541) 396-1010 / TDD (800) 735-2900
E-mail: jsweet@co.coos.or.us

February 26, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As a Coos County Commissioner and Board Chair, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide public service programs at Portland State University: 1) Oregon Consensus, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) Oregon Solutions, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide through our state in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

I have recently had firsthand experience with Oregon Solutions regarding an effort to re-route a portion of the Oregon Coast Trail away from a hazardous, narrow, shoulderless county road, which does not follow the coast, onto trails which meander through several state parks and forestlands, which border the remote and congruous coastline. Oregon Solutions has been instrumental in generating awareness and support for the need of the re-route. With their assistance, it appears the re-route will become a reality. Without it, it would have no chance of succeeding.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the state in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

John Sweet
Coos County Commissioner
541-751-3621

Cc: Senator Suzanne Weber, Senator Lew Frederick, Representative Boomer Wright, Representative Susan McLain, Representative Dwayne Yunker, Representative Hoa Nguyen



Lake County Board of Commissioners

513 Center Street
Lakeview, Oregon 97630
(541) 947-6003
Fax: (541) 947-5775

Barry Shullanberger, Vice-Chair
James Williams, Commissioner
Mark Albertson, Chair

January 23, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

The Lake County Commissioners are writing to express our support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.


Oregon Consensus is currently facilitating critical discussions with a diverse group called the Partnership for Lake Abert and the Chewaucan (PLACe). Oregon Consensus team has done a wonderful job facilitating the discussions and making progress with the participants to find common ground, learn from each other's background and involvement and interest in the practices and uses of the water within the Chewaucan watershed. Without Oregon Consensus help and support in this process, the accomplishments would be nowhere near where they are today.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,



Barry Shullanberger
Vice Chair



James Williams
Commissioner



Mark Albertson
Chairman

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

February 5, 2025,

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As Umatilla County Commissioner, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

We have experienced the positive impact of 3rd party service support in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) through the efforts of liasoning and coordination of the State Agencies to develop their Nitrate Reduction Plan and facilitation guidance of the LUBGWMA Committee, to support good connectivity of the efforts and people in the area.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Dan Dorrان, Umatilla County Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Dorrان', with a stylized flourish at the end.

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright

Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**

1245 Fulton Avenue - Coos Bay, OR 97420
Telephone: (541)888-9577 Toll Free 1-888-280-0726 Fax: (541)888-2853

January 29, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301 Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz:

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: (1) Oregon Consensus, a program of the state's dispute resolution services and (2) Oregon Solutions, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. The Tribe has experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem solving.

The Tribe is thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service ("CSL") as in the Governor's budget. The Tribe is an active member of the Oregon Offshore Wind Roadmap process, which is facilitated by Oregon Consensus. Their work is professional, sensitive to Tribal concerns, and strives to include the opinions of all stakeholders. The Roadmap would not work without them.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. The Tribe is thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Brad Kneaper
Chair

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower and Siuslaw Indians

cc: Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen



February 3, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As Carrie Nyssen, Senior Director of Advocacy for the American Lung Association in Oregon, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

In April of 2024, I was invited to participate in the Oregon Wildfire Funding Workgroup, a group tasked to work towards identifying a sustainable wildfire funding model to better prepare Oregon in addressing and financing suppression, readiness and mitigation needs brought on by on-going challenge of longer and more intense wildfire seasons. The challenge was considerable and daunting.

It was during this work that I was introduced to Oregon Consensus and their talented, experienced staff. I was on the committee to represent public health, many others on the committee were stakeholders with direct interests, including financial. All representatives brought their own mindsets and representative frames – and there were many different interests, sometimes conflicting interests.

The entire process was aided and guided by staff of Oregon Consensus, including Robin Harkless, Sylvia Ciborowski and Sofia Castellanos. They provided background information, coordinated some of the most efficient meetings I've ever participated in, and excelled at guiding the conversations to keep momentum moving to meet our tasks. Their innovative ways to determine priorities and track decision making is unmatched.

I was particularly thankful for the facilitation which guided and balanced participation by all committee members. At times, I was challenged to provide the public health perspective on some of the strategies as there didn't often seem a correlation or connection to be made. The facilitation skills of Oregon Consensus ensured that I had the opportunity to share the appropriate public health messages and perspective.

I can't say enough about the benefit of having Robin, Sylvia and Sofia from Oregon Consensus guiding this process. The ability of the staff to synthesize the conversations, track the decisions

of the group, and guide the group to consensus will absolutely be the magic leading this committee's ability to deliver a final, collaborative and meaningful product for consideration of the Oregon Legislature.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,



Carrie Nyssen

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

Date: January 27, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

We the undersigned join to express our support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. We collectively have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem solving. We are thankful for the legislature recognizing the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

We utilized the services of Oregon Consensus to help convene a diverse set of stakeholders with different viewpoints on the issue of Offshore wind. We were particularly grateful that both Bobby Cochran and Sofia Castellanos of Oregon Consensus took on a very sensitive topic, and were able to navigate and facilitate a process that involved learning and knowledge-sharing, dialogues, note-taking, and relationship-building. Each step of the process ensured that all stakeholders were able to share their diverse opinion, and reach common understanding, even where disagreements continue to exist.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Ranfis Giannettino Villatoro
BlueGreen Alliance

Heather Mann
Midwater Trawlers

Ann Veliesis
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

Lorne Bulling
Ironworkers 29

Jena Carter
The Nature Conservancy

Jess Grady-Benson
Rogue Climate

Robert Westerman
IBEW 932

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

February 7, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

I serve as President of the NW Insurance Council, a non-profit, insurer-supported organization that provides information about property & casualty (auto, home, business) insurance to consumers and policymakers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

I am writing to express my support for statewide, public service program Oregon Consensus, a key component of the state's dispute resolution services. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I appreciate that the Legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) recommended in the Governor's budget.

The Oregon Consensus recently facilitated the Wildfire Sustainable Funding Strategies Work Group, comprising 35 members from diverse backgrounds and industry sectors. As you might imagine, a group so large and diverse, diving into a complex topic that has been explored repeatedly without permanent resolution, could have easily devolved into isolated, opposing camps, and an atmosphere dominated by self-interest. Instead, Robin Harkless and Sofia Castellanos skillfully designed and navigated a sensitive, multifaceted process where every voice was heard and considered. Their facilitation fostered learning, knowledge-sharing, dialogue, and relationship-building, ensuring that all participants had the opportunity to share their perspectives and work toward a shared understanding and positive outcome.

The Oregon Consensus program provides distinct and critical services that encourage and promote sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues, to the benefit of Oregon communities. I am thankful Oregon's Legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,



Kenton Brine, President
NW Insurance Council
1500 Water St SW, Olympia, WA 98501
360.481.6539 mobile

cc: Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

February 5, 2025,

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As Water Program Director and Rural Programs lead for Oregon Environmental Council, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

We have experienced the positive impact of 3rd party service support in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) through the efforts of liasoning and coordination of the State Agencies to develop their Nitrate Reduction Plan and facilitation guidance of the LUBGWMA Committee, to support good connectivity of the efforts and people in the area.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Karen Lewotsky, Oregon Environmental Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Lewotsky". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "K" and a cursive "Lewotsky".

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

January 29, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301 Co-Chair

Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As Managing Director of the Oregon Health Leadership Council (OHLC), I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) Oregon Consensus, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) Oregon Solutions, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.


I have admired the work of Oregon Consensus and Oregon Solutions from afar, tracking projects the team has worked on in the natural resources space. Recently, I had the opportunity to learn more about the program approaches and found them uniquely positioned to tackle complex and cross-sector challenges with an impressive process and team. Last year, I participated in a small assessment project around community information exchange which provided rich learnings and a foundation for future work. Both Bobby Cochran and Sophia Castellanos were instrumental in leading the project.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.



OHLC

Where leaders meet to influence
healthcare transformation in Oregon



Sincerely,

Liz Whitworth, MPH, CEMCR
Managing Director, OHLC

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

February 5, 2025,

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As Executive Director of Eastern Oregon Water (EOH2), I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

We have experienced the positive impact of 3rd party service support in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) through the efforts of liasoning and coordination of the State Agencies to develop their Nitrate Reduction Plan and facilitation guidance of the LUBGWMA Committee, to support good connectivity of the efforts and people in the area.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Justin Green, Executive Director H2EO2



cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen



West Coast Seafood Processors Association
P.O. Box 1127
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 227-5076

January 24, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Education
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Sen. Sollman and Rep. Ruiz:

On behalf of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA), I am writing to request the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means support full funding for two important statewide programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Solutions**, and 2) **Oregon Consensus**, funded as part of the dispute resolution services allocation. As the Executive Director of WCSPA, I have experienced firsthand the benefit these two programs provide in helping to support community-based problem solving.

WCSPA represents shoreside seafood processing companies and related businesses located in California, Oregon, and Washington. Our processors range from “mom and pop” operations to some of the largest seafood companies in the West Coast, employing thousands of workers in harvesting, processing, transporting, and distributing seafood across the country and throughout the world. Oregon’s seafood industry generates billions of dollars in sales and is a critical source of year-round employment in many economically depressed coastal communities.

WCSPA has engaged with Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus regarding two issues critical for Oregon’s fishing communities. First, Oregon Solutions – through both Drs. Bobby Cochran and Sofia Castellanos – worked directly with WCSPA on a project to identify a pathway for improved wastewater treatment for seafood processing. Second, Oregon Consensus is working with the fishing/seafood industry to navigate concerns related to offshore energy development. My experience with these projects has led me to conclude there are few groups like Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus that can hold the interest of such diverse community interests in a way that helps all of us achieve our goals.

In 2023, Oregon Solutions conducted an assessment for a new Byproduct Recovery Center located in Coos Bay/Charleston. This facility would treat wastewater from four seafood processors in a way that improves the water quality in the Bay and allows seafood processors to expand and keep providing a backbone for our sustainable fisheries on the South Coast. We hope to advance this project in the next few years, and we will continue to look to Oregon Solutions for support in

bringing together the many agencies, industries, and community members we need to achieve success.

At the same time, Oregon Consensus worked with an informal working group of disparate coastal interests relating to offshore wind development. Drs. Cochran and Castellanos worked with the seafood industry, labor groups, environmental organizations and renewable energy supporters to find areas of agreement that would consider offshore wind and an increased work force but also protect the environment and existing natural resource users. That effort, in part, led to the enactment of [HB 4080](#) during the 2024 Legislative Session. In 2025, Oregon Consensus remains involved in the development of Oregon's Roadmap for Offshore Wind with Exit Ramps and has shown, again, attention to listening to community needs and an expertise in advising on process design that helps all Oregonians.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and I hope they will continue to be funded and supported.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori L. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Steele
Executive Director

CC: Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen



February 6, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

I'm writing to encourage your support for current service level funding for Oregon Solutions, the statewide public service function based at Portland State University.

For the last two years, Timberline Lodge has provided match funding, joined by state General Fund dollars, to support an ongoing effort here on the mountain to relocate the existing and outdated Mt. Hood Rest Area just east of Government Camp.

Because of the complexity of this project, no single agency, company or organization has the capacity or the authority to move this work forward. As a result, it languished up until Governor Brown designated it an Oregon Solutions project in 2021. Since that time, a diverse working group has formed to pledge commitments of support and to align around a common vision. Thanks in part to this effort, the project has received an important federal planning grant and is set to move forward, addressing significant traffic congestion and safety issues and creating new opportunities for the Government Camp community.

Oregon Solutions provides a unique and critical service to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kohnstamm, President / Area Operator
Timberline

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

March 3, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As Mark Bennett, Retired Baker County Commissioner, Immediate past Chair Oregon Wildfire Policy Advisory Council, EO Commissioner Governor's Sage Grouse Council. I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urges you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

I have had the distinct privilege of working closely with both programs at the county at a state level. The quality of leadership and dedication to all voices being not only heard but at times assisted with language is unsurpassed. The staff worked long hours to ensure that the projects were successful and that at the end of the day a quality product was produced. They reach out and encourage the participation of groups that have historically not been heard. Their goal is that a clear and concise report will be developed, and they are willing to do the work. Having participated with them I am delighted to say that they are always optimistic even when it seems to be going sideways.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Mark Bennett
541.519.8421
mbennett@bakercountyor.gov

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

23 January 2025,

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

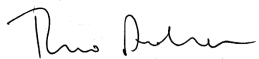
Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As members of the Partnership for Lake Abert and the Chewaucan (PLACe), we are writing to express our enthusiastic support for an important statewide, public service program at Portland State University: **Oregon Consensus**. We have experienced first-hand the benefit this program provides throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem solving. We are thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of this program and its sister program **Oregon Solutions**, and we urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

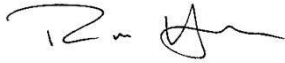
Oregon Consensus has been providing facilitation services to PLACe for almost two years, beginning in an exploratory way for a few months before 2023-2025 funding from the legislature allowed it to take a leadership role. PLACe is a partnership composed of ranchers and other representatives of the Chewaucan valley, conservation groups concerned at recent desiccation events at Lake Abert, Native American tribes and government agencies and other groups. The objective is to find a way to preserve the Lake Abert ecosystem without harming the livelihoods of ranchers and others in the Chewaucan valley. Our discussions, enthusiastically supported by the co-chairs of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water, are making excellent progress. While we and other PLACe participants are focused and dedicated to a productive outcome, we are fortunate to benefit from the skilled facilitation provided by Oregon Consensus. Our progress has much to owe to their guidance.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. We are thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

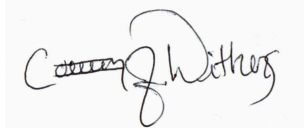
Sincerely,



Theo Dreher, Oregon Lakes Association



Ryan Houston, Oregon Natural Desert Association



Colleen Withers, Chewaucan Watershed Collaborative



Tess Baker, Chewaucan Watershed Collaborative

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

January 21, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As a past convenor for Oregon Solutions, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

In late 2023 I was asked to join Oregon Solutions on a project with several universities and Oregon's statewide higher education coordinating board. Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University are facing financial pressure due to changing demographic and economic variables. These universities, collectively known as the technical and regional universities, plus Portland State University (or the TRU+ universities); their students, staff, and faculty; and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) came together to prioritize investments in actions that will foster the long-term financial sustainability of the TRU+ universities in ways that also ensure equitable student success.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Camille Preus

Camille Preus

cc: Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright

Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman

Oregon State Senate

900 Court St. NE, S-419

Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz

Oregon House of Representatives

900 Court St. NE, H-493

Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

My name is Keith Tymchuk, I am a former 6-term Mayor of Reedsport and a 30-year member of the Port of Umpqua Commission. I know a bit about conflict resolution and successful collaborative efforts.

I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) Oregon Consensus, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) Oregon Solutions, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

For nearly 6 years, Oregon Consensus facilitated the Elliott State Research Forest process. I was involved with that project from Day One and am now the Chair of the Elliott State Research Forest Management Board. Oregon Consensus was critical in the success of this lengthy effort.

I have served as a Convener in the Oregon Solutions Wave Energy effort and as a Project Manager of the Oregon Solutions Butte Falls Community Forest project. I know Oregon Solutions from both sides. Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus just might be the most effective AND efficient dollars that the Oregon legislature allocate each session.

These two programs taste, feel and smell exactly like Oregon: They are collaborative, they get things done and they represent all of Oregon....and the best of Oregon, as well.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Keith Tymchuk

February 17, 2025

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As Reed Wagner, Executive Director of the Willamette Falls Locks Authority, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) **Oregon Consensus**, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) **Oregon Solutions**, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I have experienced first-hand the benefit these programs provide throughout all parts of our state in helping to support community-based problem-solving. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

I have had the privilege of working with these programs many times over the last two decades. There are many community challenges that would still be impacting Oregonians but for the successes these programs have delivered to the community. I have been fortunate enough to be awarded an Oregon Solutions designation when I served as Executive Director of the flood control agency along the Columbia River (Multnomah County Drainage District). The community was at an impasse before Oregon Solutions was involved. With Oregon Solutions providing independent facilitation services, we were able to redesign the future governance of flood protection and water quality, attract a New Start study by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and ultimately be awarded over \$100 Million in federal funding.

I now serve as the Executive Director of the Willamette Falls Locks Authority. Prior to the legislative establishment of this authority, the locks were a decommissioned ACOE project much to the dismay of the community. Designated an Oregon Solutions project, this historic water infrastructure project that connects communities along the Willamette river is now on track to provide future long term benefits to all Oregonians.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost-effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,



Reed Wagner
Executive Director
Willamette Falls Locks Authority

cc:


Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen

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...There are not many more challenges that would still be impacting
...to ensure these programs have delivered to the community.
...and enough to ensure an Oregon Solutions designation when
...the lead control agency along the Columbia River
...The community was at an important time
...Oregon Solutions providing a response
...the future governance of the region
...the Army Corps of Engineers (ACEC)
...in federal funding

...the Executive Order of the Williamette Falls Locks Authority, the
...the legislative establishment of this authority, the locks were a demonstration of
...the community. Oregon Solutions project
...this historic water infrastructure project that connects communities along the Williamette
...river is now on track to provide future long term benefits to all Oregonians.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Conservancy programs provide very distinct and critical
...services to communities across the state by implementing sustainable solutions and
...cost-effective resolutions to controversial issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes
...the significance of these programs and how they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,


Reed Wagner
Executive Director
Williamette Falls Locks Authority



WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP

January 17, 2025

Barton Robison, Executive Director
Willamette Partnership
1300 SE Stark St., Ste. 210
Portland, OR 97203

Co-Chair Senator Janeen Sollman
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Rep Ricky Ruiz
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Sollman and Representative Ruiz,

As the Executive Director of Willamette Partnership, I am writing to express my support for two important statewide, public service programs at Portland State University: 1) Oregon Consensus, a program of the state's dispute resolution services, and 2) Oregon Solutions, the state's program for collaborative implementation of community-based solutions. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs and urge you to support their funding to the full continuing level of service (CSL) as in the Governor's budget.

Willamette Partnership has worked closely with Oregon Consensus and Oregon Solutions staff over the years to help facilitate multi-stakeholder environmental projects around the state. Our work is remarkably similar to theirs, and the last few years have demonstrated that demand for the kind of collaborative, community-building processes that these organizations run is only increasing. I've seen firsthand the benefits of having trained facilitators support communities, particularly those in rural and other underserved communities who couldn't otherwise afford or source the expertise needed to bring the policy, technical, and facilitation skills to bear for all Oregonians.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

Barton Robison, Executive Director

cc:

Senator Suzanne Weber
Senator Lew Frederick
Representative Boomer Wright
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dwayne Yunker
Representative Hoa Nguyen