

Marjorie Glass
6981 Round Lake Rd.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

April 18, 2025

Dear Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your past support for full funding of Outdoor School and to urge you to support full funding again for the upcoming biennium.

As a retired 6th grade teacher who took her students to outdoor school (ODS) every year (back when we had to raise our own funds!), I saw firsthand the amazing difference that it made to my students' academic and social emotional learning, self-esteem, and connections to the land. As board president and a founder of a nonprofit organization that provides ODS and other outdoor programs, I continue to see that growth in the students we serve. Because I have had personal experience with the huge amount of effort that went into fundraising for ODS, I understand the incredible value of state-supported funding that gives *all* Oregon 5th or 6th graders an opportunity to have this valuable and potentially life-changing experience.

Since Measure 99 passed in 2016, over 264,500 students have attended ODS in Oregon, and the number is growing! I strongly believe that every student should have this opportunity, and I know that this did not, and would not, happen without state support. Providing quality ODS programs is not easy and is expensive, but it is extremely important. Evaluations consistently show that students' performance, motivation, and attendance in school all improve as a result of attending ODS. The outdoor school experience is and should remain a part of growing up in Oregon, and our state is the envy of, and a model for, many other states in their aspirations to provide greater access to ODS.

Therefore, I cannot urge you strongly enough to continue to vote for and support a full level of funding so that all Oregon 5th or 6th grade students can attend Outdoor School. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Marjorie Glass

Board President, Klamath Outdoor Science School
OSU Extension Outdoor School Advisory Board Chair
Former 6th grade teacher (retired), Klamath Co. SD