



Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou

PO Box 1

Williams, OR 97544

Dear Chairs Sollman and Ruiz, and members of the Committee,

My name is Vanessa Redding, and I am the Education Director at Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou, a nonprofit education and community center in Southern Oregon.

First, thank you for your past support of Outdoor School. Because of your commitment and the passage of Measure 99, over 264,000 students have had the opportunity to step outside the classroom and into Oregon's incredible natural landscape. This investment has been transformative for our youth, for education, and for our communities.

I urge you to continue full funding for Outdoor School. In our region, this program is not just a field trip, it's a life-changing experience. At Pacifica, we regularly host students for Outdoor School, and we see firsthand the impact: kids connecting with nature for the first time, gaining confidence, asking better questions, working as teams, and discovering their own capacity for growth. These are the kinds of learning moments that shape lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Whether a child lives in Portland or in the Applegate Valley, they deserve this opportunity. Outdoor School levels the playing field, offering a shared experience that cultivates curiosity, strengthens community, and builds resilience. It is a uniquely Oregonian tradition that unites us across geography and background.

I strongly urge you to maintain full funding as directed by the voters, ensuring that every Oregon 5th or 6th grader can benefit from Outdoor School.

Thank you for your dedication to Oregon's youth.

Sincerely,
Vanessa Redding
Education Director
Pacifica: A Garden in the Siskiyou
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