

Submitter: maura lederer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5043

Regarding the proposed cut in Outdoor School funding to help balance the budget, I am NOT in favor of this and ask that you:

1. Honor the intent of the voters, who overwhelmingly passed Ballot Measure 99 in 2016 to provide funds and more importantly PROVIDE an outdoor education program for our schools. These programs provide many opportunities for growth and new perspectives for our children essential for an appreciation for the natural world and the fragility of our planets ecosystems.
2. Recognize that this year, Outdoor Schools saw record participation across Oregon, exceeding pre-pandemic levels, highlighting the importance of these programs from our communities, and voters, perspective.
3. Outdoor School is lottery funded as you know. While the lottery revenue may be down a small amount (0.4%?), this decrease does NOT warrant the proposed 20% cut to Outdoor School. If there is a decrease in funding, the decrease should be in equal proportion to the decreased lottery revenue amount .