



# Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board

August 10, 2020

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Dear Chair Rives, Vice Chair Rowe, and members of the Commission,

I am writing to you as the Co-Chair of the Advisory Board for the Oregon Youth Corps (OYC). OYC provides funding and support to programs across the state that educate, mentor, and inspire underserved youth through paid outdoor work experiences. I am motivated to volunteer on this board because I previously led an OYC-funded program in Multnomah County, where I experienced firsthand the deeply meaningful, life-changing outcomes such programming provides to young Oregonians.

OYC funding is primarily through the Amusement Device Tax, which has been significantly reduced due to COVID-19, and we must find alternative ways to fund this program that positively impacts and empowers so many Oregon youth each year. As one measure toward that goal, the Oregon Youth Corps Advisory Board would like to express our full support for the Oregon Youth Employment Program policy option package, and we recommend the HECC Commission adopt it as part of the Agency’s Request Budget for 2021-2023. Continuing to invest in Oregon’s future workforce is vital at this uncertain time, and we believe this package will provide much of what is needed to keep preparing Oregon’s youth to be the skilled employees and leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you for your time. Please reach out if I can provide more information or details about OYC, the OYC Board, etc.

Sincerely,

Michael Oliver  
OYC Advisory Board Co-Chair  
Portland, OR  
971.244.3229