



June 13th, 2019
Oregon Department of Education

Dear CTE Program of Study Reviewer:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the proposal being submitted to the Oregon Department of Education - Career and Technical Education program of study application committee. Tigard-Tualatin School District is doing tremendous work to revitalize CTE programming and is positioned to develop a Natural Resources program of study at Creekside Community High School. Natural Resource work is a growing field in Oregon and we know that high school introduction to this career pathway and hands on learning assists students in becoming a productive member of this employment field

Tigard-Tualatin School District and Creekside Community High School are requesting the development of Cascade Education Corps into a Natural Resources program of study to strengthen and diversify their CTE offerings to the students in the community. We, The Wetlands Conservancy, support and recognize the need to get more students involved and exposed to our industry practices.

In order to support Tigard-Tualatin School District's vision for the program, we are committed to providing the following:

- *We will provide mentorship to the program of study instructor.*
 - *We will work with students at on-site projects and have repeated contact with students throughout the year.*
- *We will provide many career-related experiences.*
 - *Students will work at our preserves, similar to contracted crews, gaining career experience similar to an intern. They will learn about our organization, a variety of career pathways in environmental work, and they will be invited to take leadership on project planning and implementation.*
- *We will serve on an advisory committee to support the overall growth of the program*

We have partnered with Cascade Education Corps for many years to provide engaging field projects and program support. We are deeply committed to partnering with the Tigard-Tualatin School District as they seek approval to develop a best in class Natural Resources CTE program. We know the program will support the development of career pathways that lead to high wage and high demand occupations.

Any programs that can help our students gain access to CTE courses of study to increase employability skills, awareness of career opportunities through exposure to our industry, and help meet workforce needs in our region has our full support and commitment to partner in order to realize the vision.

Sincerely,

Megan Garvey,

The Wetlands Conservancy