

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3704

June 4, 2005

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the participants of the 2005 *Blazers Community Builders Youth Corps* (BCBYC) Youth Summit! Thank you for your efforts toward improving our great state, both through the countless hours of community service you conduct, and also through your advocacy in regards to issues of real importance to youth.

BCBYC is a perfect and positive example of the power of young people! BCBYC engages over 500 youth each year in service projects across Oregon and SW Washington. The fact that these projects positively impact well over 5,000 of our neighbors is truly exceptional. More than that, BCBYC empowers you to take active roles in your community as genuine agents of change.

As you have learned through BCBYC, "service" is often more than simple volunteerism and service hours. Your role as advocates in your local communities, identifying issues and problems, and working to identify viable solutions is imperative for our great state and region. That is the real success of a project like BCBYC, for it ensures that we have a generation of young people who embrace their civic responsibilities, and who will grow into tomorrow's visionaries, entrepreneurs, and leaders.

Thank you to Camp Fire USA, Hands On Portland, and the Portland Trail Blazers for their excellent work in funding and sustaining BCBYC. Our state and nation is better for the work that you all do.

Sincerely,



Gordon H. Smith
United States Senator

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