

supraSENSOR TECHNOLOGIES

May 7th, 2013

From: Calden Carroll, President, SupraSensor Technologies

Re: SB 5506: Science Commons and Research Library Capital Construction G-Bond Request

Dear Leadership, Co-Chairs, and Committee Members,

I am the President of SupraSensor Technologies—a tech start-up based at the University of Oregon. I am also a graduate of the University of Oregon with a Ph.D. in Physical Organic Chemistry. SupraSensor Technologies, a new venture based on the molecular platform developed during my Ph.D. work at the UO, recently won a highly competitive National Science Foundation Innovation Corp (NSF I-Corps) grant. These grants are designed to bring innovation out of the lab and into the private sector and our UO team subsequently received the “Best Team” award at the completion of the grant out of 25 university-related teams nationwide. This led to follow-on NSF Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and ONAMI Gap funding, which we are currently using to further develop a prototype *in-situ* nitrate sensor, which promises to fulfill a need for real-time monitoring of fertilizer application in environmentally sustainable precision agriculture. You can read more about our company here: <http://uoresearch.uoregon.edu/content/uo-research-team-wins-top-prize-nsf-sponsored-i-corps-program>

Like many early start-ups, we rely heavily on the resources that universities bring to bear. These include access to equipment, labs, and human capital. Among the resources that we continue to use in the development of our product is the UO science library, which provides access to the scholarly material and data that we need to succeed. Yet the science library, built in the 1960s, has many limitations that slow down the innovative work happening at the University of Oregon.

In the 21st century, teaching, learning, discovery, and business in the scientific disciplines is more data-intensive, interdisciplinary, and collaborative and thus highly dependent upon easily accessible information. The new design is predicated on substituting physical texts with digital content whenever possible. It would bring the current UO library more in line with modern standards. In doing so it would provide a tool that would aid us, and other startups, in our early stage development where the adage “a day in the library is worth a week in the lab” is especially apt. In addition to the literature and research services offered by the science library, state-of-the-art meeting and collaboration spaces with smartboards and virtual conferencing tools would be an invaluable asset for the university start-up and innovation community.

The legislature should take advantage of this opportunity by amending SB 5506 to include \$8,375,000 XI-G bonds that would be combined with *matching* private matching dollars and other sources to expand and remodel the underground science library to create a new Science Commons and Research Library. It would not only help the state to meet growing demand for STEM majors, but also help to propel start-ups like Supra Sensor forward.

Sincerely,



DR. CALDEN N. CARROLL, PRESIDENT

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