



February 14, 2014

To: Sen. Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Rep. Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
Sen. Peter Courtney

Sen. Richard Devlin
Rep. Val Hoyle
Rep. John Huffman

Rep. Nancy Nathanson
Rep. Greg Smith

From: Christopher Ramey Associate Vice President Campus Planning, Design & Construction (University of Oregon)

Re: Capital Construction Funding Priorities for the University of Oregon

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Kotek and Member of the Committee:

We are requesting the committee's support for University of Oregon's two capital construction projects, as well as the entire OUS list. We believe these projects are critical to activities at colleges and universities across the state.

Franklin Utility Tunnel: The Franklin Utility Tunnel is one of two tunnels that connect the University of Oregon's campus to its main power plant. The tunnel provides critical utility services to half of University of Oregon's campus. It runs underneath Franklin Boulevard, a major thoroughfare in Lane County.

Last year, an independent engineering firm's study concluded that the tunnel's structure must be addressed in the next 12 months to avoid potential structural failure, possible collapse, interruption of utility services to half of our campus, and potential traffic problems in the city of Eugene. Engineers have advised that the tunnel can be repaired during the lower utility demand time period of fall 2014. Action is needed now so that repairs can be done within this window of opportunity. The Oregon Department of Transportation, the cities of Eugene and Springfield, Lane County, and the Lane Transit District all support this project. Their letters of support have been submitted to the committee.

The University of Oregon is asking for \$2.1 million in XI-Q bonds to address this need. The project will create 19 jobs and could begin in September 2014.

Chapman Hall, which houses the Robert D. Clark Honors College. This year marks the 75th anniversary of Chapman Hall, which has remained essentially untouched since it was built in 1939; 21% of the building's value is in systems in need of repair or replacement.

Funding is needed to address the staggering list of worn out and failing systems – windows, heating and ventilation, electrical and plumbing systems all need to be repaired or replaced. The repairs would also address the building's seismic issues, energy efficiency, safety, and ADA accessibility. The G-bonds would allow us to create more and modern learning spaces that would better suit the learning needs of the 1900 students who use the building every year.

We are asking for \$2.5 million in XI-G bonds and \$4.5 million in XI-Q bonds for this project. We have already raised over \$1.6 million in private donations toward the G bond match; the remaining \$900,000 will be a priority if awarded funding. This project would create 86 jobs and could begin in early 2015.

We encourage your support for these critical projects, and the others presented from OUS in this hearing.

Sincerely,

Christopher Ramey AIA, University Architect
Associate Vice President for Campus Planning, Design and Construction
University of Oregon