

February 8, 2016

RE: Oregon Public Universities Support HB 4146

900 Court Street NE
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Legislative Leaders,

On behalf of Oregon's public universities, we write to encourage your support of House Bill 4146.

Year after year, our campuses serve as more than educational centers for Oregon and her students. They are often the stage on which athletes from across the state, region, nation, and world compete and strive for personal excellence. Whether it's the enormous success of Oregon Tech's volleyball team, Oregon State University hosting regional tournaments for softball and baseball, Eastern Oregon University's track and field achievements or the University of Oregon hosting the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) World Junior Championships and Olympic Trials, it is clear our institutions of higher education draw visitors and have a positive economic impact on the State of Oregon.

HB 4146 will increase funding for Destination Management Organizations (DMOs) across the state, promoting and enhancing the communities in which our students, faculty, and staff live, work, and play. These tourism and economic development efforts will directly benefit many of the small businesses that serve as partners for our academic programs.

As proud Oregonians, you know all that our state has to offer. Think of the Willamette Valley's expansive vineyards, the iconic lighthouses on the South Coast, and the stunning backdrop of the Painted Hills in John Day. By supporting HB 4146 and providing more opportunities for Travel Oregon to increase its regional and local funding for marketing and tourism efforts, more people will know all that Oregon has to see, taste, and do.

Universities are economic development engines in each of the communities in which we operate. Our educational missions are fortified and improved when local industries and business, including those directly tied to tourism, thrive. Increasing funding for tourism promotion opens doors for our students and businesses.

HB 4146 will allow Oregon to expand its vision and attract larger national and international signature events. The realization of these efforts will enrich the classroom experience of our students from La Grande to Eugene and Corvallis to Klamath Falls. Please support our students and businesses and vote "yes" on HB 4146.

Sincerely,

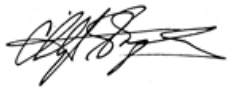
University Presidents



Thomas A. Insko
Eastern Oregon University



Roy Saigo
Southern Oregon University



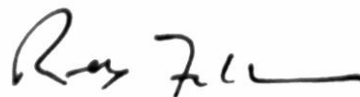
Chris Maples
Oregon Institute of Technology



Michael Schill
University of Oregon



Edward Ray
Oregon State University



Rex Fuller
Western Oregon University



Wim Wiewel
Portland State University