



February 23, 2017

House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce  
Representative Jeff Reardon, Chair  
900 Court Street NE, Room 431  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2782- Full Funding of OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter of support for Oregon House Bill 2782: full funding for OSU-Cascades. Last Fall Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HEC) recommended that the Legislature award \$69.5 in Lottery backed bonds to OSU-Cascades for its planned expansion.

Crestview Cable Communications provides traditional cable television, internet and phone services to thousands of customers in the Prineville, Madras and La Pine areas. We have been in business for more than 50 years and are an Oregon based company with over 20 employees in three counties.

Until the formation of OSU-Cascades a few years ago, the tri-County Central Oregon region was the highest population area in the state without its own four year university. Like many other Central Oregon families my own two children had to move over the Cascades to receive their higher education. It would have saved our family alone thousands of dollars if they could have stayed in Central Oregon for schooling.

From its inception OSU-Cascades had enjoyed broad student enrollment and philanthropic support from the citizens of Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties. Early supporters gifted \$4.6 million dollars to establish the current campus in Bend and just this past week an anonymous donor pledged \$5 million dollars towards a matching goal of \$10 million for our next expansion. At the same time OSU-Cascades students recently voted to increase their own fees to generate more than \$5 million towards a new Student Success Center. In short, OSU-Cascades supporters and students from across Central Oregon have put their money where their mouth is and now we need your support!

Current enrollment at OSU-Cascades is just over 1,200 students and like the rest of Central Oregon growing fast. The capacity of the current campus is 1,890 students which it expects to exceed in 2021 so the clock is ticking and we need your support.

**Crook County**

Prineville  
350 NE Dunham St.  
Prineville, OR 97754  
(541) 447-4342

**Jefferson County**

Madras Culver  
Metolius  
374 SW 5th Street, Suite A  
Madras, OR 97741  
(541) 475-2969

Crooked River Ranch  
350 NE Dunham St.  
Prineville, OR 97754  
(541) 447-4342

**Deschutes County**

La Pine  
350 NE Dunham St.  
Prineville, OR 97754  
(541) 536-1162

For all these reason and more we urge you to support HB 2782 for OSU-Cascades capital expansion.

Sincerely,



Mike O'Herron  
General Manager