

TIM KNOPP
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 27



OREGON STATE SENATE

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

February 23, 2017

Dear Chair Reardon and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing in support of House Bill 2782 and the request for \$69.5 million in state bonds for the expansion of OSU-Cascades. OSU-Cascades is a vital job creator and educational resource for central Oregon, serving as the region's only four-year university. I was involved in helping found and fund what was then the branch campus and it has achieved all the bench marks that were set forth at its founding. We must continue that commitment.

We need to invest now to accommodate its rapidly expanding enrollment. The request is an issue of timing to keep OSU Cascades on track to meeting the educational needs of Central Oregonians and the state. By 2021, the student population will have outgrown the current facility, which is why I support this measure that will fund the construction of a second academic building and student success center.

OSU recently announced an anonymous \$5M gift to support the second academic building, the campus' largest gift to date, and one which is contingent on securing additional private and state funding.

OSU-Cascades has quickly established itself as a vital resource for a large region of our state. We must ensure that it is able to continue its mission and serve the rapidly growing demand for higher education in central Oregon. A primary mission of Oregon State University is to expand access to education, and OSU-Cascades is one of the principal tools to achieve that goal. I urge you to support this important bill that will help students and the region continue to flourish.

For these reasons and many more I support the \$69.5 million request for state bonds to support expansion of OSU-Cascades.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Knopp", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Senator Tim Knopp