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April 14th, 2017

Dear Co-Chair Monroe, Co-Chair Smith Warner, Members of the Subcommittee,

As recent student body presidents of Eastern Oregon University, we want to voice our appreciation for the state's support of public universities during our tenure at EOU. The 2013-2015 biennium saw a tuition freeze for on-campus students, and the 2015-2017 biennium brought historic reinvestments in our public universities. Moving forward, we ask that you, the Joint Ways & Means Education Subcommittee, recommend that the Legislature provide the same continuing support for future EOU students.

During the 2017-2019 biennium, costs for students attending our public universities will grow without increased support to the Public University Support Fund from the Legislature. In order to prevent a tuition increase greater than 5% at our public universities, we ask that you increase funding by \$100 million more, to \$765 million during the 2017-2019 biennium. Without the additional investment of \$100 million, EOU and other public universities will be forced to fill budget gaps with a combination of tuition increases and cuts that will close the door on opportunities for many Oregon students.

We believe that no student should be priced out of a college education at Oregon's public universities. By providing strong funding now for public universities, the Legislature will be investing in Oregon's future. As current and former leaders of the Associated Students of Eastern Oregon University, we ask that you offer the next generation of EOU students the same opportunities that you afforded us during the past two bienniums.

Best Regards,

**Sidronio Rangel, Current ASEOU President 2016 - 2017**

**Addie Beplate, ASEOU President 2015 - 2016**

**Philip Sebastiani, ASEOU President 2014 - 2015**

**Evan Bryan, ASEOU President 2013 - 2014**