



**OSU-Cascades**  
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April 19, 2017

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
Senator Betsy Johnson, Representative David Gomberg, Co-chairs

Re: Support for Regional Solutions Program and Project Funding (SB 5530, HB 5023)

Dear Subcommittee Members:

I am Becky Johnson, Vice President for OSU-Cascades, and a member of the Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee (CORSAC). I am writing to support the allocation of \$11 million in Lottery Bond proceeds to fund the Regional Solutions Program and projects.

Coordinator Annette Liebe and our Regional Solutions Team have been instrumental in advancing a number of projects in Central Oregon that have produced jobs and spurred economic development. CORSAC identified the development of a 4-year university (OSU-Cascades) as its #1 priority, and there's no question that Regional Solutions has helped OSU-Cascades expand to a 4-year university and establish a new campus in Central Oregon. In addition to the educational benefits, this expansion has created new jobs across the pay scale (classified staff, professional staff, and academic personnel), and resulted in new spending and economic impact throughout the region.

OSU-Cascades has taken advantage of "distressed" sites in Bend to establish its campus at a reasonable cost, while returning the sites to beneficial use. One of those sites is a former pumice mine, and we are currently negotiating with the County to acquire a former demolition landfill that is adjacent to the campus. The Regional Solutions team allows us to work with multiple state agencies (DEQ, DLCD, ODOT, for example) in a one-stop location, and with people who know and understand the conditions in Central Oregon.

OSU-Cascades has also benefitted from Regional Solutions project funding, including an improved transit system and the development of an Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs. While funding for these projects in the last biennium was reduced from the full request, OSU-Cascades has submitted grants and invested some of our own money to bring them to fruition. The Regional Solutions funding was critical to get these projects off the ground, and has leveraged significant additional funding.

The Regional Solutions team has been an excellent partner to OSU-Cascades and many other entities in Central Oregon. This program has helped to produce jobs in our region, and I urge you to support the \$11 million in funding for the next biennium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca L. Johnson".

Rebecca L. Johnson  
Vice President for OSU-Cascades