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Senator Fred Girod &
Representative Paul Holvey
Co-Chairs, Ways and Means Capital Construction Subcommittee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for University Capital Construction Projects, focus on Oregon Tech's Engineering Complex: Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/ Cornett Hall Renovation, Phase 2

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Holvey,

My name is **Florian Houguet**. I am a Technical Director at **NIKE**'s headquarter located in Beaverton, OR. I work within the Advanced Manufacturing team which is a subset of NIKE innovation. Our chart is to maximize the full potential of manufacturing. I also serve on the Industry Advisory Board of Oregon Tech's Computer Science Engineering Technology department.

As a business person who has helped shape Oregon Tech's curriculum and hires their graduates, I am seeking your support for the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/Cornett Hall Renovation, Phase 2 project, ranked #7 on the university capital construction priority list.

I can tell you from first-hand experience that the current facility, Cornett Hall, that houses labs for the mechanical and manufacturing engineering and other high-demand programs, is in dire need of renovation. Oregon Tech needs to add high-tech engineering capacity immediately to help students prepare for 21st century jobs. Built in 1964, Cornett Hall has multiple life-safety, seismic, and ADA-compliance problems, and lacks functionality and efficiency in both classroom and lab spaces. The facility does not reflect current industry and student needs and does not do justice to Oregon Tech's nationally-ranked engineering programs, in the top 1% in the nation for ROI for graduates. **Your support during the 2015 legislative session helped us start this two-phase project. Oregon Tech has begun the renovation phase, and now needs to add the new Center for Excellence and finish Cornett Hall.**

Together with industrial space in Cornett Hall, Oregon Tech's new Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology (CEET) will increase our capacity in Engineering and Technology programs by one-third, helping Oregon meet current and future companies' workforce needs, create 280 local jobs, and reduce the need for

imported talent. The creatively designed space will increase experiential and service learning opportunities as well as applied research with companies that expose our students to real work environments and real problems to solve in our communities; and create innovators and entrepreneurs who we fully expect will lead the rebirth of our rural communities in Oregon, including Klamath Falls.

My personal path led me from the OIT campus in Klamath Falls to working at JELD-WEN, inc, one of the biggest privately owned Oregonian manufacturing company at the time I worked there. Then after working for a small company in Portland, OR I ended up getting a key position within the NIKE innovation team located in Beaverton, OR. The education I received and the rigorous level of the curriculum driven by the adequate infrastructure surrounding me in the early 2000's allowed me to successfully participate in Oregon's economy. I am additionally able to raise a family of 5 including two OIT graduate parents and 3 kids under the age of 7. I cannot pass the opportunity to praise the school I attended and voice my full support of the phase 2 for the University Capital Construction Project with the focus on Oregon Tech.

I am involved with Oregon Tech because I want to harness our state's many resources, both financial and human, to grow jobs and talent in Oregon. I also happen to work with many Engineers from various applied sciences on a daily-basis. The need for more skilled resources and the ability to find them within the state of Oregon are key enablers to insure the healthy growth of the State. Oregon students need safe, accessible, modern facilities so they are ready to go to work on the day they graduate and support a strong, growing Oregon economy.

I encourage you to support the University Presidents' and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's \$284M list of University Capital Construction Projects, and am particularly focused on ensuring that Oregon Tech's \$42M Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/ Cornett Hall Renovation Project, Phase 2, is funded. STEM education is critical to the economic development of the state, the success of our regional businesses, and to our kids who need meaningful, well-paying jobs in Oregon. Oregon Tech has earned the state's confidence and has a proven reputation for student success by every measure.

Thank you in advance for your support of Oregon Tech and its capital construction project (further description is attached).

Sincerely,

Florian Houquet

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