



Klamath County Economic Development Association

April 13, 2017

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

Subject: Support for Oregon Tech's Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology / Cornett Renovation, Phase 2

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee,

I am writing you on behalf of The Klamath County Economic Development Association (KCEDA) to express our organization's full support for Oregon Tech's capital construction project: the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/Cornett Hall Renovation.

KCEDA is the Klamath region's economic development agency. Our primary purpose is to lead economic development and diversification of the county through areas such as marketing, targeted recruitment, business retention/expansion, and completion of various strategic projects. Ultimately, we look to strengthen the reach and depth of our industry offerings, creating an economic climate that generates jobs and entices consistent investment. Oregon Tech has and continues to be a critical partner in our economic and community development strategies. It exists as a significant talent development engine for the region, presenting pipelines of scalable opportunity for local businesses and community endeavors.

We continue to find several objectives we can partner with Oregon Tech on. Some of the more recent things KCEDA is working with the university on is attracting businesses to our Tech Hills industrial park (located adjacent to the Klamath Campus) and helping start new student-led companies through the Catalyze Klamath Falls Challenge. However, the momentum we can achieve with this has the potential to be hindered, as we cannot attract and retain companies in our rural region without high-tech facilities in which to educate the next generation of engineers and innovators for Oregon.

KCEDA

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According to a recent Economic Impact Analysis by EcoNorthwest, our Klamath community benefits from \$75M in total annual output in Klamath County from Oregon Tech. This kind of direct economic impact to a rural community cannot be overstated, and its growth directly correlates with the vitality of Klamath's economy. The Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/Cornett Hall Renovation will directly benefit our community, contribute to local jobs, and attract and keep students in our community who will become the next generation of employees, business owners, and inventors.

We encourage you to support the Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology / Cornett Hall Renovation, and urge you to ensure that Oregon Tech's Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology maintains its #7 ranking on the prioritized university capital project list. It was included by the Governor and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in their budget requests, and we urge you to fully fund it this session.

Thank you in advance for your support of Oregon Tech and its capital construction priorities.

Sincerely,



Greg O'Sullivan
Executive Director
KCEDA