



Oregon Aviation Industries



May 5, 2017

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 Gale "Jake" Jacobs. I am Executive Director of Oregon Aviation Industries ORAVI, a non-profit trade association of 100 aviation related companies in Oregon focused on economic and workforce development. OregonTech is a member of our organization. I also serve on board of directors of the Association of Unmanned Systems International AUVSI Cascade chapter. 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.

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. We have held meetings at OregonTech with our members to focus on the new OMIC center and STEM programs. We desire to connect OregonTech students and graduates to our aviation industry, they are valuable resources to assist, especially with technology. 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.

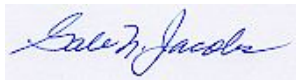
I encourage you to support the University Presidents' and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission's \$284M list of University Capital Construction Projects, and am particularly focused on ensuring that Oregon Tech's \$42M Center for Excellence in Engineering and Technology/ Cornett Hall Renovation 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.

Respectively,



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Cc:

Governor Kate Brown
Senator Peter Courtney
Speaker Tina Kotek
Senator Richard Devlin
Representative Nancy Nathanson
Representative Jennifer Williamson
Representative John Huffman
Rep. Greg Smith
Senator Dennis Linthicum
Representative E. Werner Reschke
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