



May 11, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Sub-Committee on Capital Construction

Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 5505/Please Support Full Funding of OSU Cascades Campus

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to ask that you vote to fully fund the urgently needed expansion of OSU-Cascades. OSU-Cascades is a vital resource for central Oregon, serving as the region's only four-year university. We need to invest now to accommodate its rapidly expanding enrollment. By 2021 the student population will have outgrown the current facility, which is why I urge you to support the construction of a second academic building and student success center. The Higher Education Coordinating Committee has recommended allocating the requested \$69.5M for this project, as has the House Higher Education Committee with their unanimous passage of HB 2782.

OSU recently announced an anonymous \$5M gift to support the second academic building, OSU-Cascades' largest gift to date, and one which is contingent on securing additional private and state funding. This project is truly a priority for Oregonians across the state.

As you are likely aware, Oregon's seven public universities have jointly requested \$284 million for capital projects, which includes \$20 million for initial site work for OSU-Cascades expansion. While we are seeking the full \$69.5 million recommended by HECC to complete the project, I want to be very clear that we fully support the funding requests of our fellow public universities and support these other important projects.

OSU-Cascades has quickly established itself as a vital resource for a large region of our state. We must ensure that it is able to continue its mission and serve the rapidly growing demand for higher education in central Oregon. A primary mission of Oregon State University is to expand access to education, and OSU-Cascades is one of the principal tools to achieve that goal. I urge you to support this important project that will help students, and the region, continue to flourish. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

William Perry,  
President, the Beaver Caucus

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