

May 11, 2017

Subject: SB5505-Chemeketa Agricultural Complex

Dear Co-Chair Girod and Co-Chair Holvey and members of the Joint Committee on Way and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction:

Last week I provided testimony on SB 5505 to the committee and appreciated the time and attention you gave to the Chemeketa Community College presentation along with all of the other projects presented. Below is information that may help you as you consider the issuance of bonds for the 2017-2019 biennium.

The Chemeketa Agricultural Complex will be located on the Salem Campus off of Lancaster Drive. The project cost ranges from 12 million to 17 million dollars depending on the number of community partners who choose to co-locate and the ultimate scope of the project. Our request from the state is \$6 million. Chemeketa will match the \$6 million with its own funds set aside for capital projects.

For a number of years the Chemeketa community, board, faculty and administration have been interested in expanding our agriculture and horticulture programs. We are excited to bring this project forward and look forward to the opportunities this project will bring to our community. As you know, agriculture is crucial to Oregon's economy. Marion County alone brings in over \$600 million in annual gross cash income from agricultural production. Oregon State University estimates the agriculture, food and fiber industry brings in over \$50 billion in economic activity into our state.

This agricultural complex will expand the Chemeketa agriculture and horticulture programs and facilities and allow collaboration with other partners in the Willamette Valley including OSU Extension, Marion Polk Food Share and hopefully Marion County Soil and Water Conservation district. These are partners that we have had conversations with and are supportive of this project. We have also shared the project hopes with the local community through advisory committees, the Oregon Association of Nurseries, the OSU Master Gardeners, and local high schools. We have received overwhelming support. We already have strong partnerships with OSU Extension and Marion Polk Food Share and share a faculty position with OSU.

Currently our agriculture and horticulture programs are housed in three modular buildings on the Salem campus; 4 hoop house growing structures, and several sheds and indoor and

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outdoor laboratory environments. The Marion Polk Food Share Youth Farm is also located on our property. Youth from the district work alongside students in our agriculture program and learn to grow vegetables on a five acre plot.

This 30,000 to 40,000 sq. foot project would replace the modular classroom buildings; allow us to replace outdated equipment and a pieced together greenhouse; and allow for partner space as well. Having partners will allow us to leverage our resources and share space, add to operational efficiency and services to the community and hopefully save tax payers money. Our vision is to provide a location where students and community members can come to one location to receive educational programs and services related to agriculture and horticulture.

The project includes:

- A classroom/office building
- Storage
- Green house and Hoop Houses
- Learning and research gardens and an incubator farm
- Organic vegetables gardens and small farms
- Woody Ornamentals lab for cultivation research, pollinators lab, urban fruit forest lab
- A store front where farm grown produce is sold to illustrate farm to table
- A small amphitheater for outdoor group training and community outreach activities

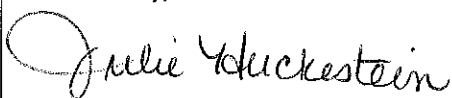
Our current educational programs include:

- Agribusiness Management
- Agriculture transfer courses –Oregon State University
- Horticulture Program

We hope to expand our program into small urban farming (including organic farming) and incubator farming. We look forward to the future possibilities with this complex and what it will bring to our communities.

Thank you for your interest in our project and your consideration.

Sincerely,



Julie Huckestein
President/CEO