



MARION COUNTY EXTENSION AND 4-H SERVICE DISTRICT

GOVERNING BODY

Sam Brentano
Janet Carlson
Kevin Cameron

May 10, 2017

BUDGET OFFICER

Tamra Goettsch

Co-Chair Paul Holvey
Co-Chair Fred Girod
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

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RE: Support SB 5505 - Chemeketa Community College, Agricultural Complex

www.co.marion.or.us

Dear Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod and members of the committee:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners, who serve as the governing body for the Marion County Extension and 4-H Service District, is pleased to lend its support for Chemeketa Community College's proposed Agricultural complex. The new complex offers the opportunity to co-locate agriculture programs and community education, thereby enhancing and creating efficiencies in public dollars through increased collaboration between the college, OSU Extension Services, Marion-Polk Food Share and other entities with similar interests. Chemeketa has requested article XI-G general obligation bonds from the State of Oregon through the Higher Education Coordinating Commission. The college's request is listed in Senate Bill 5505.

In our local area, agriculture is essential to the county's economic future. Marion County leads the state in agricultural production with more than \$600 million in annual gross cash income. As commissioners, we seek to create a vibrant economic environment by encouraging conditions to help local businesses thrive and grow. We actively seek and cultivate relationships with partners that will help our communities accomplish this. This project helps create a strategic direction to bring our agricultural communities together and further our county's economic developmental goals.

This complex and the connected partners will provide opportunities such as:

- Increased capacity for classrooms, labs, greenhouse space, and learning gardens

- Space to bring community meetings, trainings, and continuing education together
- More collaboration with agriculture related partners for potential growth of local community support
- A place where 4-H young adults work together learning about agriculture, business and teamwork

We hope to promote connections among other organizations, as well as the current partners, to enhance Marion County's important agricultural industry. We look forward, in continuing support for Chemeketa Community College, for these and other potential programs that support our communities.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Marion County Extension & 4-H Service District



Samuel A. Brentano, Chair