

May 10, 2017

Sen. Fred Girod
Rep. Paul Holvey
900 Court St. NE, H285
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Capital Construction SB 5505

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Holvey:

I am writing to you as the Chief Academic Officer of Clackamas Community College, asking for your support for the college's Dejardin/Pauling Science Center project. This biennium the college is asking for \$8 million in matching funds for the Science Center project.

We plan to update our current science facilities that simply do not provide enough space to serve our students. We have robust STEM programs, with a very active student STEM club. However, we need to serve our STEM students more effectively through facilities that will prepare them for 21st century jobs. Our current 35-year old labs do not provide that preparation. To name just a few specific benefits:

- The project expands collegiate and technical science labs preparing students for majors and careers in physics; chemistry; biology; water/wastewater; environmental sciences; cellular and molecular invertebrate studies; geology; and health sciences prerequisites like anatomy and physiology.
- The project will double current chemistry lab capacity.
- Additional biology classes can be offered due to efficient prep space.

The \$90-million bond measure approved by voters in 2014 demonstrates their support for the critical work accomplished at Clackamas Community College. Bond funds will be leveraged with this capital investment in our science facilities to improve the quality of our students' education. Expanding lab and classroom space will allow us to meet student demand for courses so that they can more quickly and efficiently meet their goals of transfer and completion.

Thank you for your consideration. Please continue to support our students by approving matching funds for the Dejardin/Pauling Science project.

Respectfully,



David C. Plotkin Ph.D.

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