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## **Energy Trust of Oregon testimony before the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction**

Co Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, President Courtney, Speaker Kotek, members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Jay Ward, Energy Trust of Oregon, an independent non-profit serving the 1.6 million customers of PGE, Pacific Power, NW Natural, Cascade Natural Gas and Avista.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Capital Construction projects before you today. Pursuant to our grant agreement with OPUC, Energy Trust of Oregon does not lobby nor does it support or oppose any legislation.

I would however, like to offer you some context regarding one of the proposals before you, the Oregon State University-Cascades request for \$69.5 million to expand the campus to meet the education needs of the Central Oregon region.

As with other public education institutions in our service territory, Energy Trust is pleased to be working with OSU Cascades to design and build its facilities to be energy efficient. Doing so not only conserves energy, it saves the taxpayers hard-earned money today and, in the case of new buildings like those proposed at OSU Cascades, for decades to come.

To date, Energy Trust has provided technical support and cash incentives for energy-saving measures at OSU Cascades' Tykeson Hall, Residence Hall and the Academic and Dining Building.

We are also excited that OSU Cascades campus has enrolled in our Path-to-Net Zero program. The program utilizes our incentives to help the university design today, for efficiency and energy generation tomorrow, in turn helping make the monies you appropriate go farther. Net zero energy use can also mean a net zero energy bill. We've all heard the adage that one needs to walk the talk. With a Net Zero energy campus, OSU Cascades students will also live what they learn.

Lastly, while it's not directly a part of this capital construction budget, I'd like to speak to the important irrigation modernization work OSU Cascades students and faculty are already doing in Central Oregon.

Recently, OSU Cascades students enrolled in the Energy Systems Engineering program, designed a new, 200kW hydropower plant for the Three Sisters Irrigation District. Over the summer, seven student interns, under contract with Farmers Conservation Alliance and supported by Energy Trust funding, performed scientific water loss assessments – quantifying the amount of water lost to seepage and evaporation in irrigation canals across the Deschutes Basin.

This hydropower project is part of Energy Trust's broader Irrigation Modernization effort – an initiative to help irrigation districts and farmers to take advantage of the full potential in their irrigation infrastructure – piping up open canals to pressurize the water delivery system, preventing water loss due to evaporation and seepage, eliminating energy-hungry pumps and generating hydropower where there is excess pressure.

All of this means more water for Deschutes Basin farms and fish – while educating and training OSU Cascades students to build out an economically and ecologically sustainable Oregon.

In closing, Energy Trust appreciates your commitment to managing state spending under very challenging circumstances and we thank you again for the opportunity to share our thoughts with you.

Respectfully,

Jay Ward  
Energy Trust of Oregon