

Cornelius

Oregon's Family Town

March 21, 2019

Co-Chair Senator Betsy Johnson
Co-Chair Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Co-Chair Representative Dan Rayfield
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon Legislature-State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of full funding for the Portland State University budget request for its campus public service program that is supported out of the Public University Support Fund.

I serve on the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies (IMS) Board of Directors, which is an advisory board to the Urban Studies Program at PSU. IMS is one strong example of how relevant PSU and the campus public service programs are to the region. Our board constitutes private and public agency members representing the larger Portland-region, including Clark, Columbia and Yamhill Counties. Having served over twenty years, I have seen the relevance of PSU to the entire region, not only as a major employer and educational institution, but also IMS serving as a neutral convener on many important regional and state issues. We provide a credible, reliable and ethical evaluation and enable open and frank discussion on public issues that need to be aired and evaluated.

PSU today is not the same university that I graduated from in 1971. It is much better, more sophisticated and has grown into an institution that helps solidify the Portland region and state into the world-class community we have become.

Please support full funding for the Portland State University programs that are before your committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Drake
City Manager