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Testimony HB 5024

Members of the Education Subcommittee of Ways & Means.

For your record, I am Sneha Sinha and I am the President of Oregon State University's College of Engineering Student Council. I am a Junior studying Industrial Engineering with a minor in Business & Entrepreneurship. I also am a College of Engineering Ambassador and an intern at the Engineering Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

I am here today to urge your continued support for the Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF), as those funds provide critical support not only to OSU's College of Engineering but also to my peers at Portland State University and the Oregon Institute of Technology.

I've always wanted to be an engineer even before I learned what an engineer was. I went to Sunset High School and was set on going to school in Washington for a long time. My dad suggested that we check out Oregon State University's College of Engineering, and halfway through my tour I knew that I belonged there.

The College of Engineering provides a thriving and engaging environment for engineering students of all backgrounds to pursue their dreams and reach their ultimate potential. All of the faculty and staff share a personal commitment to our success, and the student community is very supportive and inclusive. There are a variety of resources and opportunities for student support both academically and beyond the classroom. It is very clear that the College of Engineering works hard to get rid of barriers for any student who wants to become an engineer.

I am especially passionate about recruiting and retaining traditionally underrepresented students in engineering including women, racial minorities, first-generation and low-income students. I'm excited to share that our Center for Diversity and Inclusion has been open for almost a year, and we've been providing resources and support for underrepresented engineers through industry relations, community building, and removing any obstacles for these students.

As an ambassador for the College of Engineering, I often get to interact with prospective families who are amidst the decision process of picking Oregon State University. It is clear that the competition for recruiting high-achieving and underrepresented students is extremely high. Disrupting the stability of the College would make it more likely that the state would export talent that is much needed in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest region.

As I am nearing the end of my time in the College of Engineering, I can't help but be concerned about the impact that such drastic cuts aimed at Engineering and STEM programs would have on future generations of engineers. Not only would it impact recruitment and retention, but also those things that, as a proud Beaver and student leader, I believe make OSU unique. Providing students with academic resources and tutoring every day until late in the night, hiring talented faculty from diverse backgrounds, and supporting student organizations which enhance our skills outside of the classroom would all be hurt drastically due to such a large budget cut. I believe that the College of Engineering

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experience would never be the same without these aspects performing at their highest potential, as that's when I see students the most passionate and excited about engineering.

This is my first official activity in my role as President-Elect. I appreciate that you took the time to listen to me and I will respond any questions you might have.