



April 29, 2019

Joint Committee on Student Success
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Roblan and Co-Chair Smith Warner and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on our support for HB 3427-32, the Student Success Act.

NIKE's global headquarters are based in Washington County, Oregon. NIKE's roots run deep in Oregon. The company was founded on a handshake, \$500 and mutual trust between legendary University of Oregon track coach Bill Bowerman and Phil Knight, a middle-distance runner for Bowerman's track program in Eugene. From that handshake, NIKE has grown into the world's leading designer, marketer and distributor of authentic athletic footwear, apparel, equipment and accessories for a wide variety of sports and fitness activities, employing thousands of Oregonians. Oregon is home to our World Headquarters, with more than 14,000 employees, and Air Manufacturing Innovation (Air MI), a Nike subsidiary which is one of our largest US manufacturing sites. Air MI produces the cushioning Air soles for the iconic line of Nike Air footwear models.

NIKE appreciates the important work and leadership of the Joint Committee on Student Success. As we've communicated to the committee previously, we want Oregon to be a great place for our employees to live and work and for businesses to grow and thrive. This includes strong, healthy schools, community colleges and public universities, safe neighborhoods, public places to play, and support for other essential public services.

NIKE supports the substantial investments in Oregon's public schools as described in the bill. We support allocations to help lower class sizes, expand access to early education and mental health services, restore programs like art, music, physical education, and more fully fund career preparation and hands-on technical education. Also important is the strategic funding designed to close the opportunity gap for historically underserved students.

The Student Success Funding Plan as reflected in HB 3427-32 is designed to deliver meaningful investments for Oregon public schools and meets established criteria for sound tax policy. Key criteria include a transparent, low-rate consumption tax that applies broadly and equitably across business entity types, provides more stability to the current state revenue system, is administratively feasible, reduces over-reliance on personal income taxes, and dedicates funds to improve Oregon's public education system.

Given Oregon's current mix of business and individual taxes, we believe this plan addresses some of the key challenges related to Oregon's unique tax system.

NIKE supports this new policy and thanks the Committee for your thoughtful work.

Sincerely,

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