



La Grande Main Street Downtown, 104 Depot, La Grande, OR; 541-963-1223

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May 3, 2019

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street, HR E  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs, Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Christine Jarski and I am Chair of the La Grande Main Street Downtown (LGMSD) Design Committee, which is an organization of business and civic leaders working to advance historic preservation, economic opportunity and livability in our region.

Also for the record is a letter dated April 18 where our organization urged your support for the \$3 million investment to restore the staircase at Eastern Oregon University in the Governor's budget.

I will not repeat all of the reasons for our support for this investment, as outlined in our letter.

Simply, we believe this investment would demonstrate a commitment to the people of eastern Oregon to honor our place in the state's history and to advancing economic opportunities for rural Oregon.

We encourage you to read our letter and the range of support beyond the university for this important asset. And we encourage you to make this investment a priority this legislative session.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Jarski  
Chair, Design Committee



April 18, 2019

The Honorable Fred Girod  
The Honorable Paul Holvey  
Joint Ways and Means Capital Construction Subcommittee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street, NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: The Grand Staircase at Eastern Oregon University

Dear Co-Chairs, The Honorable Fred Girod and The Honorable Paul Holvey,

On behalf of La Grande Main Street Downtown (LGMSD) board and members, I am writing to encourage you to support investment in the Grand Staircase at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) as presented in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

LGMSD is an organization comprised of business owners and civic leaders focused on working collaboratively to advance historic preservation, economic opportunity and livability in our region. The Grand Staircase helps advance LGMSD's mission while connecting EOU to our downtown. It also helps enhance the livability and walkability of La Grande by restoring the historical main entrance to the campus and the neighborhoods that surround this centerpiece of our community.

Now, more than ever, the Grand Staircase is of significant importance to the economic vitality of our City and even our region. EOU is one of the top five employers in La Grande. It brings students from all over the world, as well as faculty and staff to our remote, rural community. Until it was closed in 2004, the Grand Staircase was a physical link, connecting the University and our Community.

Like the University, the Grand Staircase also attracts people to our area. Restored, it has the capacity to be one of the strongest tourism sites in Eastern Oregon and in the region. If nothing is done to restore the staircase, it will continue to decay and this important historical and cultural asset will be lost forever.

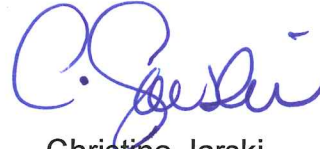
We urge you to fund the reconstruction of this iconic structure, so that it can once again be the gateway between the University and the citizens of La Grande.

Sincerely,



Shawn Risteen

President, LGMSD



Christine Jarski

Chair, LGMSD Design Committee