

From: [Lori Heino-Royer](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: PSU - Adding Capital Funding for PSU's Vernier Science Center to HB 5201
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 11:09:48 AM

To: Honorable Fred Girod and Honorable Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
Members, Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Re: Adding Capital Funding for PSU's Vernier Science Center to HB 5201

I graduated from PSU with an MBA in 2002. In July 2016, I joined the PSU Alumni Association Board, as a way to give back to the educational institution that has given so much to me. I am writing today to strongly support the use of public funds to renovate PSU's undergraduate science building.

PSU has such a unique offering in the heart of downtown Portland. I did my MBA as a single parent while working a full-time job. It was the only offering that allowed me to further my education while still being able to provide for my family. Today there are more than 27,000 students that are improving their lifetime opportunities by attending PSU.

As the world is becoming more digital the job market has already begun to change. The need for programmers and knowledge of STEM topics will be a basic requirement for almost any job in the near future. Our Oregon Universities need to stay ahead of the market to stay relevant.

More than half of PSU's STEM enrollment is made up of first-generation, low-income students from historically underrepresented groups. These students need and deserve a facility and programs that will enable their success. Their success is critical to Oregon. The new PSU building will better prepare students to be gainfully employed in tomorrow's world.

Thank you for taking the time to consider adding capital funds for PSU's Vernier Science Center to HB 5201 and your commitment to the education of our future leaders of Oregon.

Sincerely,

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