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February 14th, 2020

Re: Funding for Portland State University's Vernier Science Center Project (HB 5201)

Dear Members of Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

The work of this committee is certainly challenging. You must evaluate many worthy projects. I believe, however, that PSU's Vernier Science Center is of particular value and hope you will consider appropriating funding for it in the current session.

I am an alumnus and supporter of Portland State University. I graduated from PSU in 1967 with a degree in the sciences and was among the first students to take classes in this building. I visited recently and believe the facility to be in need of significant updates, as would be natural after half a century of high-impact use.

The students trained in the building develop Oregon's workforce in health, science and technology. These are sectors essential to our region's economic growth. My own PSU education gave me critical thinking skills that I took into business and real estate development. Many of Oregon's entrepreneurs begin with degrees in the sciences.

I believe that public investments in PSU return a particularly good ROI for Oregon. PSU educates a higher percentage of Oregonians, students from all walks of life, and more students of color than any other university in Oregon. It also undertakes important research and works with business, industry and the city as a valuable partner. Portland is not Portland without PSU.

Please consider the university's funding request in this session. Thank you again for your efforts and your service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Walter Bowen", with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Walter Bowen