



**Oregon Institute of Technology**  
**FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

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Joint Committee on the Second Special Session of 2020  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairs Courtney and Kotek, and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon Tech, is Oregon's only polytechnic university. We specialize in technology-infused degree programs in a hands-on project-based learning environment. We are thankful for your support of the Boivin Hall Rehabilitation project as outlined in SB 5721. This building houses critical lab facilities and classrooms required by nearly all programs and students on the Klamath Falls campus. Year-over-year we have consistently grown as students and families vote with their feet by enrolling in our STEM and health related programs. This project is critical in serving those students. As you are aware, we operate two main campuses, a residential campus in Klamath Falls and a commuter/returning adult focused campus in Wilsonville.

As there was much discussion regarding Oregon Tech and construction projects at our Klamath Falls location, we think it important to place on the record our position as it relates to Section 15 of SB 5721.

As a technology focused university where hands on experience as a key tenant of our education process we understand the importance of our equivalent to apprenticeships – internships and their role in preparing individuals for their careers. Similarly, we have a long track record of focused on creating opportunity for and inclusion of Oregon students from traditionally underserved backgrounds in industries that offer family wage careers. We pride ourselves on being an engine for intergenerational economic mobility. Our students are ready to add value on day one because of our industry connected degree programs that include internships, externships, and hands-on educational experiences.

*Because of this Oregon Tech is strongly supportive of apprenticeship programs and increasing inclusion of women, minority, and veteran individuals in state projects. We will work hard to meet these goals outlined in SB 5721.*

We do not foresee issue with achieving these goals as written for potential future projects at or near our Wilsonville location which has access to the broad and deep Portland-Metro area construction marketplace.

However, in Klamath Falls we face the same challenges of many rural communities with limited access to general and subcontractors. We have worked diligently to cultivate local contractors for



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participation in both small and large capital projects on our campus and are proud of the results. This includes the entire value chain from design and engineering through construction.

We are cognizant of the unique needs and capabilities of the local firms that serve our campus and thus impact our ability to meet our mission and serve our students and the state. The project pipeline for many of these firms are likely to include both large scale state projects such as those for Oregon Tech, as well as relatively small commercial projects. As a result of the limited marketplace and construction pipeline we are concerned that local firms may not be able to effectively participate in the Boivin Hall Rehabilitation project, and this may create unintended barriers.

We hope that this will not be the case, but fear that this may mean that there are few, if any, competitive bids on capital projects from the local contractor community. We are cognizant of the many state goals accomplished through capital construction projects such as the rehabilitation of Boivin Hall. We are worried about the practical realities in terms of getting enough bids to establish competition and fair pricing, meeting the needs of our students by accomplishing the project goals and deploying project resources in a way that buoys family wage jobs in the local and regional economy. That said, we are committed to the principle of improving access to apprenticeships and broad and inclusive employment in the construction trades and will work diligently to implement SB 5721 if it is enacted to the benefit of the state, the university and the many individuals participating in the construction process.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony, and we look forward to answering any questions you or the committee may have.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Fox".

Brian Fox  
Vice President for Finance & Administration  
Oregon Institute of Technology