



March 29, 2021

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Co-Chair Susan McLain
Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education

RE: SB 5513 and STEM Investments for the 2021-23 Biennium

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLain, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

I'm writing to ask for your support for the \$5.4M STEM investment in SB 5513, which is included in Governor's Recommended Budget for 2021-23. This investment will allow us to better engage diverse learners across the state in STEM opportunities through the STEM Hub Network, STEM Innovation Grants, and Oregon Mathways.

The Greater Oregon STEM Hub is Oregon's largest geographic STEM Hub, covering seven eastern Oregon counties and over 38,000 square miles. Our rural students benefit directly in STEM education investments by receiving resources and opportunities that have been lacking, historically. Investing in STEM education and the work of the STEM Hub Network means an investment in a highly skilled workforce for Oregon's economic well-being and allows our young people to thrive in an ever-changing world. It is through the Oregon Department of Education's critical investments, like that of SB5513, that we can deliver high-quality STEM education and supports to the communities that we serve.

I appreciate the Legislature's support for STEM education. This additional \$5.4M investment will accelerate our progress and allow us to put more students across the state on a pathway to opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David J. Melville'.

David Melville
Executive Director
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