

April 22, 2021

Ways and Means
900 State Street NE, Room H-178,
Salem OR 97301

RE: HB 5555

Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward, Rayfield and Members of the Committee,

Investment in higher education offers rewards that benefit the entire state. Funding the Public University Support Fund at \$900M and the Oregon Opportunity Grant at \$200M will keep a four-year university education within the grasp of Oregonians from every background, including those who will be the first in their family to attend college and working adults completing their degrees so that they can unlock new career opportunities. Our public universities exist so that any Oregonian who is willing to apply themselves can enjoy the benefits that a higher education and college degree can bring. Please continue these vital investments so that these opportunities do not fall out of reach of many hard-working Oregonians.

Please also consider \$86M in bond funding to complete the renewal of Cordley Hall at OSU's Corvallis Campus. Cordley is a large laboratory and teaching building that has not been comprehensively renovated since it was built more than seven decades ago. As a graduate of OSU's College of Science and a former member of CoS' Board of Advisors, I am keenly aware of the important and groundbreaking work the college is doing. Cordley alone is home to a member of the National Academy of Science, nine Distinguished Professors and two of the most cited researchers in the world. Over the last five years, research at Cordley has generated more than \$56M in grant funding. If OSU is to continue to receive this level of outside research support, investment is needed now to assure that our world-class scientists have the modern facilities their work requires.

Thank you for your consideration. Prioritizing higher education prioritizes the economic health of our state and creates opportunity for all Oregonians. It is an investment with many vibrant returns.

Best Regards,

Sue McGrath
President, Vision Capital Management Inc.