

TO: Oregon Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Andrew Reed

DATE: April 26, 2021

SUBJECT: HB2472 - Relating to Oregon Institute of Technology

My name is Andrew Reed, and I am a senior in the Renewable Energy Engineering program at Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT). I am writing in favor of the designating OIT as Oregon's Polytechnic University.

This institute excels in creating hands-on learning for students with guidance from specialized faculty. OIT is special because the faculty are specialized experts in specific fields who have the experience necessary to guide students in labs, projects, and training for roles in these industries. OIT faculty not only know what the industry needs, but are willing to do whatever they can for students to guide them to a successful entry into the workplace.

As we all know, there are different types of learning: *hands-on learning* is prized among many of you, I am sure. Hands-on learning is critical for Oregon Tech programs, from engineering to nursing to radiology. OIT programs help shape and craft the most valuable skills that industry is looking for when they hire. Faculty at OIT truly understand the technology and challenges of their respective industries and also make meaningful, personal relationships with students to ensure students are well-prepared and skilled. They do this even under difficult circumstances, knowing that they are doing what is best for students and their industries alike. Faculty like this are why OIT students find such outstanding success after graduation. A polytechnic university prizes these success stories above all else.

I am an Oregonian who went back to school in my mid-twenties. I had very few hands-on skills when I arrived at OIT. I found myself desperately needing guidance for the hands-on skills I was lacking. Through my small class sizes and specialized lab experiences, I found mentors and guiding hands in my professors who have set me up to succeed in my goals. I could not have gained such applied skills and technological know-how in this specialized field at any other university in Oregon. This is the success story path of student at a polytechnic university like OIT.

With a designation as Oregon's polytechnic university, more students like me can find their way to these wonderful expert professors who are truly committed to guiding the next generation of specialists in their respective industries. This will be highly beneficial for Oregon's future students.

Thank you,

Andrew Reed