

February 11, 2022

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Ref.: SB 5702

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Holvey:

I write in support of SB 5702 capital request allocation on behalf of the Agriculture-Technology-Education Alliance (ATEA) in Hood River County.

This Hood River County capital request is of significant value to our rural agriculture industry, education silo inclusive of k-12, Community College and OSU and a proposed intergration with one of the most unique economic development clusters of AI and robotic technology companies in Oregon.

Farm lands are diminishing in the face of pressures from alternative land uses, climate change and skilled labor. What is being proposed is to bring education skills up to the level of todays agriculture technology advancements, offer alternatives to efficient farm land uses via a operating technology farm and a pathway for students to be encouraged to pursue opportunities afforded by this capital investment.

The region is endorsing this effort from all corners and could likely become a model for other rural areas of Oregon and Washington to emulate.

Please support this effort.

Regards,

Brian Shortt, Co-Chair
Agriculture, Technology, Education Alliance
Hood River County