

Date: 14 April 2023

To: The Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Representative Tawna Sanchez, Members

From: Andrea Mann, OSU Extension Volunteer, Pendleton

Re: Support for the Public University Support Fund, Oregon Opportunity Grant and/or Collaborative Innovation Complex

Identify yourself. My name is Andrea Mann, OSU Extension Volunteer, Pendleton

I am writing to express support for the Public University Support Fund, Oregon Opportunity Grant and Collaborative Innovation Complex.

The Public University Support Fund (PUSF):

- An additional investment of \$150M in the Public University Support Fund (PUSF) for a total of \$1050M will help OSU and other Oregon public universities cover costs, shield students from significant tuition increases and help maintain academic advisors and other wrap-around services for students.

The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG):

- The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) provides direct assistance to Oregon's low-income students, ensuring all Oregonians, no matter their socioeconomic background, can access higher education.

The Collaborative Innovation Complex (CIC):

- The Jen-Hsun and Lori Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex will be built on the OSU Corvallis Campus. The complex will use state-of-the-art technology to serve OSU students and research initiatives. A total of \$100 million in private funds has been committed to the \$200 million project. This includes \$75 million for the construction of the building and \$25 million for a NVIDIA supercomputer to support faculty in addressing highly complex and challenging computational programs. The university is requesting \$75 million in state bonding to match the philanthropic and university contributions for facility construction.

An investment in higher education is an investment in Oregon. Currently, Oregon trails behind other states in spending on education and ranks 45th in the nation in per-student

funding for public universities. Programs like the PUSF and OOG work to bridge spending gaps and support students, while the Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex aims to push OSU and Oregon forward as leaders in research and development.

Higher education is a key element in putting Oregonians on a pathway to stability and prosperity, and it is too important to shortchange Oregon's students for even one more year.

Sincerely,

Andrea Mann