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TO: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, Joint Committee On Ways and Means, Subcommittee On Capital Construction
FROM: Kyle Frick, VP Marketing and Community Relations
DATE: February 16, 2024
RE: Testimony in support of Oregon State University's capital funding request for \$24M to support Phase 3 Remediation and Campus Development

Honorable Co-Chairs and committee members,

My name is Kyle Frick and I am the Vice President Marketing and Community Relations for Mid Oregon Credit Union. Our credit union was founded in Prineville in 1957 by eight educators to help provide credit and financial services for teachers and staff in the Central Oregon Region. Since then, we have grown to nearly 47,000 community members, \$700 million in assets with over 150 staff supporting seven branches in Bend, Redmond, Prineville, Madras, La Pine and Sisters. We are the only financial institution headquartered in Central Oregon. For the past two years we have been selected "Top Workplace" by the Oregonian and the #1 Credit Union in Oregon by Forbes magazine in 2023.

We have long been supporters of education and economic development in Central Oregon through our close relationships with the school districts, COCC (Central Oregon Community College), EDCO (Economic Development for Central Oregon), and regional chambers of commerce. We serve on the EDCO board, Better Together Board, former Bend Chamber Board Chair, past Oregon Community Foundation Leadership Committee and various other non-profit and service clubs in our area. Several of our volunteer board members are past superintendents of local school districts.

Today, we are writing in support of the \$24 million request to expand the OSU Cascade campus. We see this expansion as a significant positive impact to Central Oregon by providing access to education for local students who are pursuing their careers and dreams close to home, family and support for their success. The expansion would provide additional housing for students at a reasonable cost which is challenge in our area as housing costs are at all-time highs. Additionally, the relationship between OSU Cascades and COCC is a strong collaboration that provides a cost-effective path for students to pursue their education.

Several of our executives, staff and their family members have directly benefited from access to OSU Cascades by achieving their respective degrees. We support this through our education reimbursement programs. The majority of students who attend the university here are locals. This includes educators who continue their learning and increase our student success in classrooms. We are also directly involved with providing financial literacy to students OSU Cascades through their award-winning Cascades Edge Program.

From our local historical viewpoint, we see OSU Cascades as a key to the continued growth and sustainability of Central Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Kyle Frick
VP Marketing & Community Relations

