



February 16, 2024

TO: Senator Fred Girod, Co-chair Joint Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-chair Joint Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
Senator Lew Frederick
Senator Bill Hansell
Senator Elizabeth Steiner
Senator Rob Wagner
Representative Jeffrey Helfrich
Representative Nancy Nathanson
Representative Dan Rayfield
Representative Greg Smith

RE: Support for OSU-Cascades Phase III Remediation and Campus Development included in HB 5201

Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey and Committee members,

On behalf of the Bend Chamber's 1,600 members and 8,500 businesses in Central Oregon, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to support Oregon State University's request for \$24M to complete the next phase of remediation of a demolition landfill at OSU-Cascades in Bend.

The OSU-Cascades campus is an asset for Central Oregon and the state's future workforce and economic viability. The campus is being developed on a 128-acre site that includes 10-acres of originally buildable land, a 46-acre decommissioned pumice mine, and a 72-acre former construction landfill.

The Bend Chamber supports the development of the campus for many reasons. First, there is no better outcome than to transform fallow land into a thriving, innovative university that supports an enterprise-driven economy and supplies the talented workforce we so desperately need. This is where Central Oregon's entrepreneurs, students, and graduates will co-exist to charge a fast-growing economy.

Funding to complete the next phase of the remediation work makes business sense. It creates an 81-acre continuous campus, saves at least \$1M in immediate costs by allowing continuous work on areas already under construction, and creates a campus that allows more than a decade of growth for over 3,000 students. It creates buildable land that will attract private investment for the needs of students that is essential to their success, including housing with 150 apartment-style beds and a student health and recreation center.

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In sum, allowing the contiguous completion of this essential groundwork creates viable, buildable land. This is vital to attracting private sector funds that will pay for much of the vertical development of university, community, and industry facilities, and add millions to Central Oregon and the state's tax base. This essential groundwork will make the land marketable and attract private investors.

It is also important to know that Central Oregon financially supports OSU-Cascades. This has been demonstrated in past developments, and the University has committed to raising \$5 million to add to the state's grant of \$24 million to complete this important phase.

We urge your support and prioritization of allocating \$24 million to the development of OSU-Cascades, and our regional and state economy.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks", is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Katy Brooks
President & CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

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