

Submitter: Heather McEvoy

On Behalf Of: Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5506

Dear Co-Chair Fred Girod, Co-Chair Rob Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

My name is Heather McEvoy, and I'm a former staff member at Portland State University and a lifelong advocate for the power of public higher education to transform lives and communities. I'm also a proud Mom to a current PSU junior who is working toward becoming a clinical social worker. I'm writing to express my full support for PSU's request for \$85 million in Article XI-G bonds to help bring the long-envisioned Performing Arts and Culture Center (PACC) to life.

During my time at PSU, I saw firsthand how deeply connected the university is to the vitality of downtown Portland and to the success of Oregon's students. The PACC represents far more than a new building—it is a bold investment in our shared future.

This project will:

- Help reinvigorate downtown Portland with new cultural energy and economic activity
- Expand access to creative spaces for artists and organizations from across the region
- Provide PSU students—many of whom are the first in their families to attend college—with real-world learning opportunities in performance, production, and arts management
- Generate thousands of family-wage jobs, including union construction jobs and ongoing employment through expanded programming at Keller Auditorium
- Catalyze private investment in the area and reimagine what's possible in this key corridor of our city

As someone who dedicated years to supporting the mission of PSU, I believe this is a rare and critical opportunity to support Oregon's students, our downtown core, and the future of the arts in our state.

Please fully fund PSU's \$85 million request. This is an investment in access, equity, creativity, and renewal—and one that will pay dividends for generations.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Heather McEvoy