



May 2, 2025

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

I am writing today as president of the PSU Foundation, the organization that raises private contributions to support the students, faculty and programs of Portland State University. I appreciate the opportunity to voice strong support for authorizing \$85 million in Article-G Bonds for the Performing Arts + Culture Center (PACC) as part of Portland State's Capital Construction Bond Request.

As Portland's anchor institution, Portland State is leaning in on this extraordinary opportunity to provide amazing opportunities for PSU and K-12 students, to develop our region's creative industries workforce, to build nationally unique partnerships, and to help drive vitality and economic benefit for the city we serve.

The vision goes far beyond PSU. We believe this is a moment for Portland and Oregon to consider how it can lead with culture – which encompasses learning, arts and entertainment – to ensure a bold and bright future.

We also see the PACC community theater as an eventual hub and home for the diversity of statewide artists, performers and organizations whose voices and missions should not and cannot be diminished by the extraordinary challenges of this moment. We believe it is the moving, mind-expanding experiences that happen in theaters, classrooms, plazas and stadiums that are the human connections that bind our communities together.

The PSU Foundation has committed to raising a total of \$30 million in private philanthropy to support the PSU-owned academic spaces and community theater that will be part of the multi-use PACC. We are in the midst of significant donor conversations. As of this writing, there is one anonymous eight-figure commitment in negotiation, with more to come. We believe that private and public funding will together spark additional investments, and be the market signal our region needs.

Sincerely,

Sarah Schwarz, President, PSU Foundation