



---

**Vernier Software & Technology**

13979 S.W. Millikan Way • Beaverton, OR 97005-2886  
toll free 888.837.6437 • 503.277.2299 • fax 503.277.2440  
info@vernier.com • www.vernier.com

### **Vernier Software & Technology Supports the Oregon Education Investment Initiative**

As business owners in Oregon, we believe part of our role is to support our community. We donate to local charities, we support employees who give, we volunteer for non-profits, and we try to run our business in accordance with the values that we believe most Oregonians share. We believe our corporate success has come from our support of our community. It makes us a better company.

In Oregon, our philanthropy is not alone. Thousands of our business colleagues are engaged in service and advocacy supporting everything from robotics competitions to advocating to minimize climate change. But we realize that corporate philanthropy alone is not enough to fix Oregon's most pressing problems: our underfunded public schools, colleges and universities. For corporations in Oregon to address that problem, we must be willing to pay more in taxes. That is why we support the Oregon Education Investment Initiative announced by Speaker Kotek and Chairs Nathanson and Barnhart — it thoughtfully asks larger corporations in Oregon to pay more in taxes to fund the schools and services our state desperately needs.

We have been in Oregon long enough to have seen how things have changed. Corporations in Oregon used to pay a significant portion of the income taxes in this state. Over the years, the revenue from corporations has dropped drastically. Frankly, corporations are not paying their fair share any longer. Oregon's K12 public schools need more financial support. We can see it in the statistics: third largest class sizes in the country, one of the shortest school years, and low high school graduation rates, and skyrocketing college tuition costs. Oregon's education woes are not new, but they are fixable. The Education Investment Initiative is the beginning of that new investment, and it's one that we strongly support.

We all now know that our low school funding is partially driven by Oregon's low corporate taxes. Because business owners pay fewer taxes here than in other states, our schools and universities do not have the resources they need. The Kotek plan addresses this reasonably and responsibly, asking only large businesses, those with more than \$5 million in Oregon sales, to pay more. It addresses the shortcomings of Measure 97 and it protects small businesses in the state. This revenue plan is what Oregonians have been waiting for. Our state will be able to make meaningful investments in job skills training, hire thousands of teachers to reduce class sizes, and increase college affordability, among other important strides.

Investing in education and critical services is the right thing to do because our businesses are only as successful as the communities we serve. Our economy is only as strong as its citizens can make it — without new investments in schools and higher education, we'll always underachieve. With businesses doing their part, we can excel, and that's the Oregon we believe we deserve.

Sincerely,  
David & Christine Vernier