

From: Erik Kancler
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Testimony on SB 5505 Re: OSU-Cascades Expansion
Date: Friday, May 12, 2017 9:42:36 AM
Attachments: [HB 2782 May 2017.pdf](#)
[OSUCascadesFundingMay.pdf](#)
[Please Approve the Full Funding \(\\$69.5 million\) for OSU-Cascades - Five Talent Software Inc.pdf](#)
[OSU-C letter of support 5-10-17.pdf](#)
[Letter Ways and Means 5.12.17.pdf](#)
[Fact Sheet 2.pdf](#)
[Fact Sheet 1.pdf](#)
[johnson testimony-signed.pdf](#)
[OSU Cascades Expansion Support OpportunityKnocks 05.09.17.pdf](#)
[HB 2782 Support C.O.Chambers 04.17.17.pdf](#)
[OSU Cascades Testimony May 12 2017.pdf](#)
[Support for OSU Cascades Expansion.pdf](#)

JWMCC Committee Staff:

In reference to SB 5505, please accept this email and the following attachments as a single document in support of the \$69.5m in requested funds for the planned expansion of OSU-Cascades. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Erik

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Erik Kancler
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525 NW York Drive, Bend OR 97703 | (541) 647-6426 | www.hydroflask.com

May 11, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support Full Funding (\$69.5 million) for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Subcommittee Members:

As a Central Oregon business leader, I see OSU Cascades as one of our most exciting developments over the past several years. To build upon the great start Oregon has achieved, I am writing to request your support for the full funding of the OSU Cascades Expansion included in HB 2782.

We've started to build industry-academia partnerships like those that underpin many other states and regions across the US. Already Hydro Flask investors have gifted \$350,000 to help fund the creation of an Outdoor Products degree program. We are working with the university and our industry to shape this future program. Our vision is to not only provide career opportunities for local students but also to have the next Hydro Flask type success come from a future OSU Cascades student. Of course real jobs, taxes, global brands based here in Oregon, and a vibrant, diverse economy are the benefits for Oregon.

OSU Cascades is a key ingredient for our industry. Please help us build upon our early success by supporting the full funding of the OSU Cascades Expansion included in HB 2782 – a great investment in our state's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Allan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Scott Allan

General Manager / Brand President



MADRAS
SANITARY SERVICE
COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL INDUSTRIAL

PO Box 82 Madras OR, 97741 Phone: 541-475-2071

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May 10, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support Full Funding (\$69.5 million) for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Subcommittee Members:

I'd like to explain to you why I believe fully funding the expansion of OSU-Cascades is so crucial for Central Oregon, in part by explaining why it is that I am a 43-year-old college student. I grew up in the small Central Oregon town of Madras, and attended Central Oregon Community College as a young person. It took a while to obtain my associate of arts degree, as I was also working in my family business (Madras Sanitary Service) and commuting two hours round-trip to the campus in Bend. I worked hard, did well, and graduated about 20 years ago. Even though I would have loved to have continued on, at least to obtain my bachelor's degree, that was the end of the educational road for me, because there were no other college options in my region. I was needed in my family business, and any education I was going to get would have to be within commuting distance.

I was place-bound by my business, just as thousands of other potential students are place-bound for all kinds of reasons. Studies show that a large percentage of young people won't attend college at all if there isn't one within 50 miles of home. That clearly seems to have been the case in Jefferson County, where only 16% of our adult population has a bachelor's degree or higher. Distance was a deal-breaker for me, as it was for many of my peers.

I was so excited to see OSU-Cascades become a reality in Central Oregon. Even though I was by then decades into my career, and had served several years on my City Council and then as Mayor, I never lost the sense of regret about not having gotten the level of education I really wanted and needed. So, in 2014 I went back to school, and even though it's still a bit awkward for me, since many of my classmates weren't even born when I graduated from high school, I am grateful every day to finally have this opportunity.

OSU-Cascades is now serving the higher education needs of what was for so long the most underserved area of Oregon. Because of all the pent-up demand, the school is growing quickly. If we don't act now to add additional capacity, we will very soon run out of space. My generation of Central Oregonians missed out on opportunities because there was no university nearby; this generation may miss opportunities because of a lack of investment. As you know, HB 2782, which contained full funding for the expansion, received unanimous support from the House Higher Education and Workforce Committee. We as a community are committed to do our part in this push for funding; please invest in OSU-Cascades and help us catch up with the rest of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Melanie Widmer
President
Madras Sanitary Service

May 10th, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Full Funding (\$69.5 million) of OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Subcommittee Members:

My name is Preston Callicott, CEO of Five Talent Software, Inc., a custom software development company based in Bend, Oregon. Our growth depends heavily on the availability of highly-skilled software developers in Central Oregon. OSU-Cascades (“OSU-C”) is establishing the workforce-creation engine Central Oregon needs.

Central Oregon is at full employment, especially in tech, along with many other market sectors. **We respectfully request the Members of the Committee approve the Full Funding of OSU-Cascades Expansion**, as this campus is, and will be, a major contributor to the local economy, providing the 21st Century workforce Central Oregon needs for its economic growth.

Local Grads are in High Demand

OSU-C’s computer science graduates are highly sought after here, because our tech ecosystem in Oregon is extremely robust and requires an ever-increasing number of software developers and data scientists.

Reason One: OSU-C has a fantastic computer science department generating work-ready graduates.

Reason Two: The graduates already live here. Over 70% of OSU-C’s students are from Central Oregon, and virtually all have stated a desire to find employment here. This allows us to hire talent without adding more people to a metro area already struggling with housing availability and costs. Additionally, professional recruitment costs for out-of-state tech hires is anywhere from \$20,000 TO \$40,000.

Reason Three: Businesses here want to collaborate with students early on through internships and research assistance. This helps the students understand the business environment/needs before they graduate, which allows for a faster learning curve and a better long-term fit.

One Final Point: A new campus doesn’t happen very often in the U.S., which gives Central Oregon (and the state) a big competitive advantage. The caveat is we need to be bold and build a campus with the future in mind. OSU-C’s leaders have put a lot of thought into how to craft a campus to do just that. The mantra in tech is “innovate”, and OSU-C carries that flag for all of us in Central Oregon.

Kindest Regards,



Preston Callicott
Chief Executive Officer, Five Talent Software, Inc.

May 10, 2017

The Honorable Fred Girod, Chair
The Honorable Paul Holvey, Vice Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support Full Funding (\$69.5 million) for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Subcommittee Members:

On behalf of the members of the Central Oregon Business Plan, we are writing to support full funding (\$69.5 million) in state bonds to support the planned expansion of OSU-Cascades.

The Central Oregon Business plan is an association of business community leaders focused on public issues that affect our region's way of life and future. We partner with the Oregon Business Council and present our priorities as part of the annual Leadership Summit and Business Plan.

The expansion of OSU-Cascades (OSU-C) is our highest priority. Central Oregon is one of the fastest growing business regions in the nation, and our companies are diversifying our economy with new manufacturing and cutting edge technological innovations. A highly qualified workforce with skills relevant to our businesses is crucial to our success, and in alignment with the continued growth of our region. To both attract our nation's brightest innovators and build up our local talent pipeline, we need to have a first-rate university campus to train future employees.

As you've no doubt heard, Central Oregon is known as an "education desert" and tremendously underserved in terms of higher education. Outside of OSU-C, the nearest universities are three or more hours away. More than 70% of OSU-C's students are from Central Oregon, and many of them can't afford the additional cost of relocating to achieve a four-year degree. Combined with the fact that OSU-C's curriculum is in part being developed in concert with local business leaders – including many of our members – this campus will be an engine for highly skilled workers unlike any other. OSU-C will benefit the lives of our students, their families, local companies, and our communities. Ultimately, this also serves our entire state.

We understand that the OSU-C student body is projected to exceed its current capacity by the start of the 2021 school year; without the full funding from the Legislature this biennium, it will be faced with overcrowding and the possibility of turning students away. Just as the new campus is getting off the ground, the last thing we want to see is the tremendous momentum behind OSU-C stunted by a lack of funds.

We appreciate the difficult choices facing the Oregon legislature this session, but few investments offer the promise of OSU-C. We urge you to invest your limited resources where returns are greatest. **Please support full funding of OSC-Cascades.**

Sincerely,





Tykeson Family Foundation

May 12, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support Full Funding (\$69.5 million) for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Hovley and members of the Subcommittee:

I am a retired business owner, an active philanthropist, a volunteer in Central Oregon and a graduate of the University of Oregon. It delights me to see the new OSU-Cascades Campus alive with students engaged in learning and pursuing their dreams. An educated citizenry is a key to Oregon's sustainable future. I appreciate your commitment to our greatest natural resource—our youth.

As the prior owner of BendBroadband, our family was an early supporter of the notion of a four-year university in Central Oregon. Once OSU-Cascades gained momentum, we endowed the first professorship, supporting the unique Energy Systems Engineering Program. When it became clear that there wasn't room on the COCC campus for a growing OSU-Cascades, the Tykeson family contributed \$1M toward the needed \$4M to begin the first set of new campus facilities. Now at the nexus of needed expansion, the Tykeson Family Foundation, without hesitation, contributed another \$1M toward the \$10M in local matching funds.

Tykeson family members have graduated from the University of Oregon, yet we believe that the OSU-Cascades campus expansion is the best kind of investment in Oregon--because it changes futures and makes our economy more durable. We believe the legislature should allocate \$69.5 million to expand OSU-Cascades during this legislative session for the following reasons:

1. OSU-Cascades will be at capacity in serving students by 2020. The \$69.5 million requested will provide a second academic building and a student success center--to ensure that all students receive the support and connection points they need to graduate.
2. Central Oregon has a large underserved population in Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes Counties that need the close proximity of OSU-Cascades to attain 4-year college degrees. Our state universities provide an affordable path to a college degree and most are located within reasonable proximity to home. However, until the four-year program opened at OSU-Cascades in 2015, the growing student population had two choices: attend COCC for 2 years and finish at OSU-Cascades through the 2+2 program, or attend University elsewhere--the closest being over 135 miles away.
3. Businesses of all kinds in Central Oregon need trained workers to meet their workforce needs. The sustained, fevered pace of population growth in Central

Oregon includes the relocation of many businesses setting up operations here. With over 20 majors available now and strong collaboration with the business community, OSU-Cascades is filling a vital role for employers across the region. Hundreds of internships have occurred and graduates are being hired for well paying jobs.

As co-founder of Now4 OSU-Cascades, a coalition of leaders from across the region, I join with dozens of committed representatives to underscore the importance of this campus to the future of our region and to the state of Oregon. OSU-Cascades is a game-changing asset for Oregon and is the most important advancement for our region in decades.

In closing, the current facilities on the 10-acre parcel are a great beginning. However, capacity for students at these facilities will be surpassed in 2020. The requested allocation of \$69.5M during the 2017-19 legislative session will provide a second academic building and a student success center to ensure that all students – including those who are underserved and first generation college students – have the support they need to complete their degree and contribute to our fine state.

Central Oregon is among the fastest growing regions in Oregon and the nation. Making the appropriations now to accommodate student demand and meet the needs of our region is the right kind of investment. It is an investment that will pay dividends to our state for decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration on behalf of our youth, for a better Oregon.

Sincerely yours,



Amy C. Tykeson
Former CEO of BendBroadband
Managing Trustee of the Tykeson Family Foundation
Co-Founder of Now4 OSU-Cascades

PO Box 567
Bend, OR 97709

2017 CAPITAL REQUEST FOR \$69.5 MILLION FOR CAMPUS EXPANSION

The expansion of Oregon State University – Cascades beyond its current capacity is crucial to meeting the needs of Oregon’s fastest growing region, yet one that lags behind the rest of Oregon in higher educational attainment. By 2021 OSU-Cascades will exceed its current capacity of 1,890 students. In order to continue to provide access to higher education for Central Oregonians, campus capacity must be increased.

INVESTMENT

Capital Projects to be Funded

The OSU-Cascades’ campus expansion project includes:

- **Reclamation of 46-acre pumice mine site**
\$9M Q-bonds
- **Campus infrastructure**
\$11M Q-bonds
- **An academic building**
\$10M G-bonds, \$29M Q-bonds, \$10M gifts
- **A Student Success Center**
\$5M G-bonds, \$5M Q-bonds, \$5M OSU revenue bonds
- **Graduate & Research Center Renovation**
\$0.5M G-bonds

RECLAMATION OF THE CAMPUS OWNED 46-ACRE PUMICE MINE SITE

Target Completion: Spring 2020

The reclamation of the site will be undertaken according to the campus design specifications outlined in OSU-Cascades’ Long Range Development Plan. Partial fill and compaction of the pumice mine will bring the overall site to a condition ready for infrastructure development.

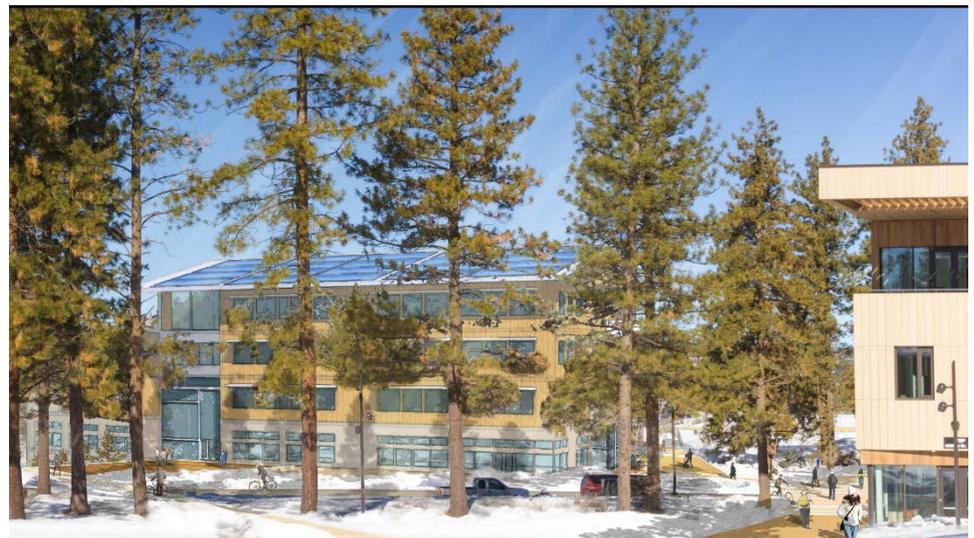
CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE

Funding Source: \$11M Q-bonds

Target Completion: Summer 2021

After reclamation of the site is complete, infrastructure will ready the site for future building and open space development. The planned campus infrastructure includes:

- Roadways
- Multi-modal pathways
- Parking
- Storm water facilities
- Utilities



Utility infrastructure and building locations will be designed to support a net-zero campus, potentially using geo-thermal, solar or bio-mass utilities.

Costs for anticipated public infrastructure improvements are included in the project.

ACADEMIC BUILDING 2

Target Completion: Summer 2021

By 2021, OSU-Cascades will be at capacity for academic classroom and faculty office space. A second academic building is needed to accommodate the significant enrollment growth anticipated to meet OSU-Cascades’ share of the state’s 40-40-20 goal.

The planned 55,000 square foot academic building includes:

- Lab space for bio-sciences, kinesiology and engineering

- General purpose classrooms
- Faculty offices
- Learning support and research spaces

The laboratories and general-purpose classrooms will support the growth of general education requirements and regional-specific programs.

The overall project also includes:

- Outdoor learning and study space
- Structured and surface parking

■ STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER

Target Completion: Summer 2021

Development of a three-story Student Success Center will improve learning outcomes and facilitate student engagement at OSU-Cascades. The current campus has limited space dedicated to the improvement of student success.

There is substantial research showing that the more involved students are in an institution, the more invested they will be, the higher the grades and the more likely they are to be successful.

The student success building will include a combination of:

- Flexible use spaces for classroom, learning commons or tutoring space
- Advising or counseling space
- Arts presentation and maker space
- Informal gathering space
- Student involvement spaces (ex. multi-cultural/social/outdoor programs)
- Offices for student success staff, including study abroad, service learning, sports and clubs, career counseling, and internship support

■ RENOVATION OF GRADUATE & RESEARCH CENTER

Target Completion: Fall 2018

As OSU-Cascades increases its offerings of academic degree programs and courses, it will be necessary to accommodate the related increase in faculty and staff.

Following the acquisition of the Graduate & Research Center in 2012 approximately 60 percent of the building was renovated to provide academic classrooms and office space.



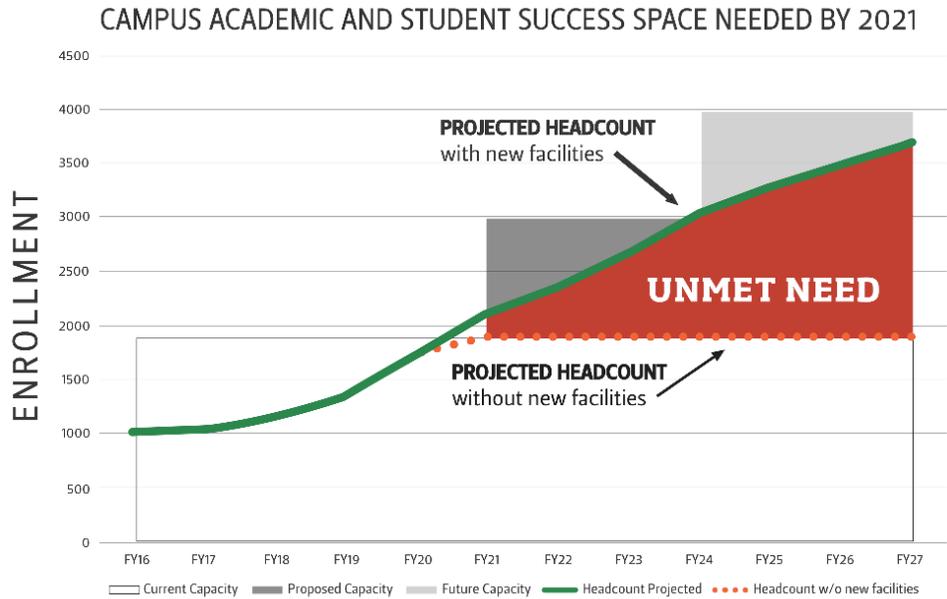
Figure 1 Graduate & Research Center floor plan

This proposed renovation project will increase the utilization and efficiency of select areas within the Graduate & Research Center and provide support and office areas. The remodel will also enhance security features, including:

- Relocation of the reception to the main entrance
- Installation of automatic door locks
- Installation of security cameras as provided on other Oregon public university campuses

Serving a Growing Economy and an Education Desert

Oregon State University - Cascades in Bend is Oregon’s fastest growing public university campus, and has been since 2011. Its responsibility is to serve 3,000 to 5,000 students by 2025 to meet state education goals. Yet by 2021, the current academic and student support facilities on the 10-acre campus will be at capacity. Without the investment of \$69.5 million in state funding for an additional academic building and a Student Success Center this biennium, OSU-Cascades will be unable to meet the educational needs of the state’s fastest growing and most underserved region.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Central Oregon’s economy is growing fast and diversifying. Employers are looking to OSU-Cascades to provide skilled workers in new industries: High-tech, Biosciences, Healthcare, Manufacturing. By 2025 OSU-Cascades will contribute:

- \$197.8m** In statewide economic output
- \$72.7m** In operations, construction activities
- 2,083** Jobs
- \$3.43m** Additional annual state income taxes

RURAL CHALLENGES

A 2016 American Council on Education study describes Central Oregon as an *Education Desert*. The region lags behind the rest of Oregon in higher educational attainment, and the gap in rural Crook and Jefferson counties is significant. The study shows most freshmen who attend a public university do so within 50 miles of home, so OSU-Cascades is critical for serving Central Oregon’s rural families. But without additional capacity, OSU-Cascades will be unable to serve these students, and they are twice as likely to be unemployed and ill-equipped to participate in Oregon’s prosperity.

UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

- OSU-Cascades’ student body reflects the demographics of an underserved and rural community:
- 70%** Central Oregonians
 - 21%** from C.O. rural communities
 - 35%** first generation college students
 - 50%** Pell Grant eligible, indicating financial need
 - 18%** US minority students, a 50% increase since 2011

With additional capacity, OSU-Cascades can continue to serve these populations, transforming students’ and families’ lives.



OSU-Cascades
1500 SW Chandler Avenue, Bend, Oregon 97702-9595
T 541-322-3100 | F 541-706-2000 | OSUcascades.edu

May 9, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support Full Funding (\$69.5 million) for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Subcommittee Members:

I am Becky Johnson, Oregon State University Vice President in charge of OSU-Cascades. I am requesting your support for \$69.5 million in bonds to expand OSU-Cascades and provide access to higher education in the fastest-growing part of our state.

I have been at OSU-Cascades since 2009, when the legislature was considering closing the campus due to budget cuts. I'm pleased to say that since that time, we have expanded from a 2+2 program to a full four-year university. We have moved off the Central Oregon Community College campus, where we were spending much of our operating dollars on rent, to a beautiful new campus in the heart of Bend. We have been the fastest-growing campus in Oregon, and have been serving primarily Oregon residents (95%), a vast majority of them from Central Oregon (70%). We have added 290 Oregon resident students in the past 5 years, while many other universities have seen enrollment declines. OSU in Corvallis and Oregon Tech were the only other campuses to add Oregon residents. OSU-Cascades now has 1,116 students, moving toward a goal of 3,000-5,000 students by 2025.

The reason for our enrollment growth is that Central Oregon has been the fastest-growing region of our state, yet the most underserved for university education. The region now has over 220,000 people, but only one university, public or private. The next closest university is OSU in Corvallis – three hours away. There was clearly pent up demand for a university in Central Oregon, and we have only begun to meet that demand.

A recent report by the American Council on Education identified Central Oregon as an "education desert," and cited studies that show proximity to a university is a critical factor in educational attainment. A majority of first year students attend a university within 50 miles of their permanent home. Without such an opportunity, many simply can't afford to attend at all. This is especially true for first generation, low income, minority, and rural students. These are exactly the students we serve at OSU-Cascades.

Half of OSU-Cascades students are Pell Grant eligible, over a third are first generation, and 18% are U.S. minorities. Seventy percent are from Central Oregon, and 31% of those are



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1500 SW Chandler Avenue, Bend, Oregon 97702-9595
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from the rural areas of Central Oregon. OSU-Cascades is clearly a regional-serving university and is making access possible for many place-bound students.

But that access is in jeopardy for future students because OSU-Cascades will be at capacity in 2020. Without a new facility in place by 2021, we will need to start limiting enrollment to our current capacity of 1,890. If the legislature does not allocate the full bonding request of our Board of Trustees in this session, we will not have another building in place by 2021.

Our community has already raised \$7 million toward a \$10 million philanthropic goal to fund the next academic building. We hope to have the full \$10 million pledged by the end of your legislative session. But the gifts will be contingent upon the state bonds to complete the funding package. Together, the community and the state can invest in the future of Central Oregon and make dreams come true for thousands of students.

Every campus in Oregon has a compelling case to make for why the state should expand capacity and better serve the people of Oregon. We support all of the projects included in the \$284 million request submitted by the seven universities last year. I hope the case I've made will lead you to support an increased investment that will not detract from the other universities and which will enable Oregon to meet the needs of its most underserved region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca L. Johnson".

Rebecca L. Johnson
Vice President for OSU-Cascades



OPPORTUNITY
KNOCKS

Opportunity Knocks
705 SW Bonnett Way #1000
Bend, Oregon 97702

May 9, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support Full Funding (\$69.5 million) for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Subcommittee Members:

My name is Aly Waibel and I am the Executive Director of Opportunity Knocks, a nonprofit organization of 20 plus years that serves the business community in Central Oregon. **I am writing on behalf of the Opportunity Knocks Board of Directors to respectfully request the committee support the full funding request included in HB 2782**, which passed from the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee to Ways and Means with unanimous support.

Opportunity Knocks (OK) is a 501 (c) 6 membership supported and supports collaborative growth in Central Oregon by matching industry and community leaders with a trusted, local, facilitated group of peers who act as mentors, or an informal Board of Advisors. As of January 2017 we serve nearly 200 Central Oregon companies and community leaders in industries such as tech, bio sciences, outdoor and consumer products, food and manufacturing.

The OSU-Cascades expansion project will provide Central Oregon with the economic stability and educated workforce needed to sustain the rapid economic growth of our region. We strongly support you in supporting full funding for the expansion of the OSU-Cascades campus.

Respectfully,

Aly Waibel, PhD
Executive Director, Opportunity Knocks

On behalf of OK Board members:

Jim Schell, *Opportunity Knocks Board Chair*
Georell Bracelin, *GB2 Agency*
Valarie Rekwad, *Delicious Design*
Jamie Christman, *Bend Chamber of Commerce*
Rich Lyon, *Bend Commercial Glass*
Alan Dale, *Bryant, Lovlien & Jarvis*

Steve Curley, *COCC Small Business Development Center*
Preston Callicott, *Five Talent Inc.*
Shannon Mara, *Sudara*
Manny Freitas
Karen Douglas
Ken Streater, *Community Growth Leader*
Jay Riker, *Cascadian Group*

And OK facilitators and team members:

Peter Wheary, *Greenloop Solutions*

Kermit Yensen

Sam Lanier, *CEO of FireWhat*

Ben Watson, *Sudara*

Ron Fritz, *Tech Soft 3D*

Jerry Andres

Brenda Spears, *BUZZTAG*

Craig Jones, *Amolite*

Vic Martinez, *Bend 2030 and Payne West Insurance*

Julie Kelleher, *Sisters Vacation Rentals*

Ali Cammelletti, *Camelletti Consulting*

Phil Torchio, *The Brooomsmen*

Andrea Sigetich, *SageCoach Inc.*

Travis Davis, *PayneWest Insurance*

Valerie Yost, *Brooks Resources Corporation*

Michelle Alvarado, *Wahoo Films*

Preston Callicott, *Five Talent Software*

Jamie Rose, *Cascadia Vehicle Tents*

Noelle Fredland *Old Mill District & Les Schwab Amphitheater*

Coby Horton, *US Bank*

Jeremy Groh, *Combined Communications*

Joanne Matthews, *Joanne Matthews Consulting*

Eric Strobel, *BBSI*



April 17, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means SubCommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301
RE: Support for HB 2782 – Full Funding of OSU-Cascades Expansion

Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee:

This letter is to ask you to advance the outcomes detailed in HB 2782 through the budget process in order to fully fund the expansion of the OSU-Cascades campus in Bend. The presence and growth of OSU-Cascades is critical to the health of our state and the Central Oregon region. It has forged partnerships, built a home-grown workforce and elevated the region’s ability to attract and retain a diverse economy.

Central Oregon continues to outpace growth statewide with 44,000 more people expected by 2025, making the lack of higher education opportunities more acute. Governor Brown has emphasized a desire to fund projects that prioritize access to higher education, particularly for underserved minorities, first generation, low income, and rural students. The first four-year public university to be built in Oregon in 50 years, OSU-Cascades can uniquely deliver on these crucial goals.

Most public college students, particularly those less affluent, enroll within 50 miles of home. OSU-Cascades draws 70 % of its students primarily from Central Oregon, which is geographically isolated and under-served in regards to higher education opportunities. The average student is 29 years of age, 35% are first generation attendees, 18% are U.S. minorities and 50% are Pell Grant eligible (low income).

This campus has so thoroughly answered the need for education of underserved students in Central Oregon, that OSU-Cascade’s enrollment has been the fastest growing in our state each year since 2011. Capacity is projected to be reached by 2021 –barely enough time to plan, permit and construct new facilities. For this reason, it is critical to receive full funding to begin construction of new academic and student services facilities immediately.

By 2025 OSU-Cascades will contribute nearly \$198 million in statewide economic output and more than 2,000 jobs. The impact of this economic activity and job generation to Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties is, frankly, a game-changer for the region’s economic health. Central Oregon employers need more graduates to



fill burgeoning industries of high tech, biosciences, healthcare, manufacturing and professional services. Yet, this trajectory could be stunted without the capability to keep pace with workforce needs.

We urge you to advocate for advancing the outcomes detailed in HB 2782 through the budget process to fully fund the need for education and economic viability that will support the healthy, self-sustaining growth of Central Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks
Bend Chamber
President

Ann Gawith
La Pine Chamber
Executive Director

Joe Krenowicz
Madras – Jefferson County Chamber
Executive Director

Judy Trego
Sisters Area Chamber
Executive Director

Kent Elliott
Sunriver Area Chamber
Executive Director

Eric Sande
Redmond Chamber
Executive Director

Casey Kaiser
Prineville Chamber
Executive Director



May 11, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co Chairs
900 Court Street NE Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support Full Funding (\$69.5 million) for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Subcommittee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support of full funding for OSU-Cascades Expansion. I am Mike Hollern. I have been Chairman of the Board of Brooks Resources Corporation since its inception in 1969 and was the former President of Brooks-Scanlon, Inc. from 1970 until its sale to Diamond International in 1980. Brooks Scanlon was the largest employer in Bend during a time when our Central Oregon economy was heavily dependent on the forest products industry. Brooks Resources is a real estate development company responsible for projects like Black Butte Ranch, NorthWest Crossing, Awbrey Butte, Mount Bachelor Village Resort and many others in Central Oregon.

We are fortunate in Central Oregon to have a great climate, abundant recreation opportunities, an enviable quality of life and a diversifying economy. We have survived the loss of most of the forest products jobs that were here 30-40 years ago. We are still subject to sharp shifts in economic cycles, up and down. We were particularly hard hit in the 2006-2010 recession with the loss of construction, recreation and hospitality industry jobs, and major reductions in real estate values.

Many of us who have been around for a long time have dreamed about and advocated for a four year University in Central Oregon for years. Under Ed Ray's and Becky Johnson's leadership and with support from our community and the legislature, we are seeing those dreams come true, but we need the \$69.5 million funding in HB 2782 to continue that momentum through the next biennium.

You are all aware of the stabilizing influence a University can have on a region's economy, both through workforce and business development and through the University's and students' own spending and economic impact.

I have had the honor and pleasure of serving as the Governor's Convenor of the Central Oregon Regional Solutions Advisory Committee for the last four plus years. Members of that committee include elected leaders from Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties, Mayors and City Councilors from Bend, Lapine, Redmond, Prineville and Sisters, plus representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, the private sector, educators and the philanthropic community. We debated the highest priority economic development activity or project we could support to create or retain well-paid jobs in our three county region. We unanimously made support of the creation and growth of the OSU Cascades campus in Bend our number one priority. OSU Cascades has exceptionally strong and enthusiastic regional support, not just from the Bend community.

We understand and appreciate the difficult budget decisions you will need to make in this session for the 2017-19 budget, but your support of the \$69.5 million full funding request, which passed to you unanimously from the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee, is critical to give OSU Cascades the ability to provide higher education capacity in Central Oregon so that it contributes to our region's and the state's economic prosperity, rather than drawing on its social services.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hollern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Hollern" clearly distinguishable.

Michael P. Hollern
Chairman, Brooks Resources Corporation
409 NW Franklin Avenue
Bend, OR 97703



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May 9, 2017

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod and Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support Full Funding (\$69.5 million) for OSU-Cascades Expansion

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Subcommittee Members:

We are writing in support of the full funding request for the OSU Cascades expansion as included in HB 2782, which passed unanimously from the House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee to Ways and Means. \$69.5 million in state bonds are needed to fund the timely expansion of OSU-Cascades. Along with funding for K-12 education, we believe this is one of the highest priorities for advancing educational attainment in our region.

We are the Superintendents of every school district and ESD in Central Oregon. As educational leaders, we know the impact that a college degree has on economic and social well-being. On average, bachelor degree holders earn nearly twice that of high school graduates, and are half as likely to be unemployed. As the future parents of students that we will see in our K-12 schools, they will also be more involved in their child's education, and less likely to be a drain on our state's social services.

We meet monthly with the leaders of OSU-Cascades and Central Oregon Community College in order to work collaboratively on education initiatives for Central Oregon. For example, Better Together is our regional, cross-sector partnership working collectively to improve children and youth success from cradle to career. In this effort, we are aligning our existing, emerging and new efforts around shared outcome measures to ensure that Central Oregon students thrive.

Knowing the importance of higher education, we are very concerned that Central Oregon is extremely underserved for the size of our region. Not only are we the fastest-growing region of the state in population, we are also the fastest growing in K-12 enrollment. Without additional capacity at OSU-Cascades, our future graduates will not have access to a nearby university. For many of our low income, first generation, underrepresented, and rural students, this access to a nearby university is critical in their decision of whether or not to go to college. We are working hard to improve the college-going culture of our students, and it would be for naught if there were not capacity for them in our region.

We know that the state budget is tight and you are facing difficult choices. But investing in higher education in Central Oregon will be an investment that increases state tax revenues and reduces state costs in the long run. We ask you to support the full funding request and invest where the return is the greatest.

Sincerely,

Shay Mikalson, Bend-La Pine Schools
Duane Yecha, Crook County School District
Stefanie Garber, Culver School District
Michael D. McIntosh, Redmond School District
Curtis Scholl, Sisters School District
Rick Molitor, 509J School District and Jefferson County ESD
John M. Rexford, High Desert ESD