



Board of County Commissioners

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February 13, 2018

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
Representative Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Fred Girard, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Sub-Committee on Capital Construction

Subject: Funding for Oregon State University-Cascades Campus

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners was pleased to hear of the Governor's request to dedicate \$39 million toward a proposed expansion of the Oregon State University-Cascades Campus. As you may know Deschutes County has worked in close partnership with OSU and donated land to help make the vision of a four-year university in Central Oregon a reality.

Central Oregon continues to be one of the fastest-growing regions in both the state and the country. Providing access to quality higher education is a key factor in attracting this growth and the resulting economic benefits. In addition, the ability of OSU-Cascades to adapt degree programs specifically to meet the needs of regional industries and develop the local workforce is further helping to strengthen and support the economy. We believe that further investments in OSU-Cascades will contribute to prosperity, not only in Deschutes County, but also in the more rural areas of central and eastern Oregon.

OSU indicates that enrollment at the Cascades Campus is growing faster than any other public university. In a letter dated February 2017, the Chair of the Office of the Board of Trustees stated that OSU-Cascades added 321 students, while all other universities combined added just 503. Projections show that total enrollment may reach 5,000 by 2025. At this rate of growth, additional classrooms, faculty offices, laboratories, parking, and other facilities will clearly be required to accommodate all those who wish to attend.

Most of the new students enrolling at the Cascades Campus to date have been Oregon residents and many of those are from central and eastern Oregon. They have chosen to learn, live, and work near the communities in which they were raised. We are gratified that they now have an opportunity to do so.

For these reasons, the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the Governor's proposal.

Thank you for considering this important investment.

Sincerely,

DESCHUTES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Anthony DeBone
Chair

Phil Henderson
Vice Chair

Tammy Baney
Commissioner

c: Members of the Sub-Committee on Capital Construction Committee
Senators Cliff Bentz, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum
Representatives Daniel Bonham, Knute Buehler, Mike McLane, and Gene Whisnant