Invest in Rural Economies and Oregon's Next Generation Of Students

All of these investments are matched by private funds raised by the universities.

In addition to providing increased education and research opportunities for Oregon students, this package will fortify Oregon's engineered wood products industry by incorporating the use of Oregon-based engineered wood products such as cross-laminated timber, laminated veneer lumber, glue-laminated lumber, and more. The veneer and engineered wood products industry is the second-largest manufacturing industry in the state, employing more than 8,500 Oregonians. The mass timber products that will be incorporated in the proposed projects will be harvested, milled, and manufactured in Oregon largely in rural, timber-dependent communities in an effort to represent the future for this important Oregon industry. Each of the building projects will be designed to integrate advanced wood products in ways that demonstrate new applications and uses for them, helping drive demand for Oregon products.

These projects will also provide increased access for rural and place-bound students. The attainment of postsecondary education by rural Oregon youths lags considerably behind those who live in urban Oregon. By investing in higher-education projects and generating additional demand for industry, Oregon will create homegrown timber production and construction jobs in key geographic areas, while also providing opportunities for underserved students in central and eastern Oregon.

Oregon's economy is headed in the right direction. If we are to maintain this momentum, the state must take active steps to invest now in homegrown industries, job creation and workforce development, and education and research.

As industry, civic, labor, tribal, and education leaders, we urge the approval of this package this session. This is a critical investment that will result in extraordinary benefits to Oregonians for generations to come.

$9 million (combined general obligation and lottery bonds) for the field house at Eastern Oregon University

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

$39 million for an academic building at OSU–Cascades

Oregon State University Cascades

$40 million for the science campus at the University of Oregon

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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