

April 18, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs of the Ways and Means Committee,

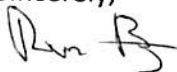
Deeply committed to the stability and success of the Oregon economy, I am writing to you on behalf of the Oregon State University College of Engineering Dean's Leadership Council. As you evaluate the effectiveness of the individual Public University State Programs, we strongly urge you to restore funding to Engineering Technology Sustaining Funds (ETSF) and consider increasing funding to meet the current service level. Doing so will fuel the continued growth of Oregon's economy and support the diversification of the state's workforce.

The Oregon legislature's initiative to make long-term investments in STEM has been transformational for Oregon State University. Since 1997, the College of Engineering has experienced unsurpassed growth through funds provided by the Engineering Technology Council (ETIC) and ETSF. In the last 20 years, the college more than tripled the number of degrees conferred and nearly quadrupled research expenditures. One of the most important changes seen as a result of these funds, however, is in the composition of the engineering faculty and student body at Oregon State. The Oregon legislature's support has allowed the College of Engineering to thoroughly assess and refine recruiting and hiring practices with a goal of broadening faculty diversity. As a result, they have doubled the number of female faculty, and now have 50 female faculty members. This shift in faculty demographics is positively influencing the composition of the study body. Supporting more women in STEM fields will feed Oregon industry with a more broadly diverse workforce, supporting Oregon's economic development.

Elimination of the funding, 10 percent of the college's budget, would destroy the stable foundation of the college and jeopardize the many gains made with the support of the state's investments, regional industry, generous donors, and committed employers.

Oregon's investment in technology and engineering through higher education is an investment in the state's economy. We ask you to restore ETSF funding and increase funding for the benefit of our future.

Sincerely,



Derek Rotz