

**From:** [Steve and Dolores Petruzelli](#)  
**To:** [JWMCC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Adding Capital Funding for PSU's Vernier Science Center to HB 5201  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 11:05:31 PM

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Honorable Fred Girod and Honorable Paul Holvey, Co-Chairs  
Members, Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction

I am writing as a proud Portland State graduate and Board Member and Executive Committee Member of the Portland State University Foundation Board of Directors.

Portland State University has been a university of choice and necessity for many, such as myself, who were the first in their families to obtain an undergraduate degree. Most had to hold part or full time jobs to accomplish their goals to receive a degree at PSU. Today, 80% of PSU students are Oregon residents. This is the highest percentage among the three largest universities in Oregon.

For Portland State students, the road to a career in STEM or health fields begins on the northern edge of campus in the undergraduate science center facility. Unfortunately, hundreds of students, faculty, and staff gather in an aging facility that is outdated and in need of significant structural and system updates.

If PSU is to offer our undergraduate students an inspiring science center for learning and research which provides for successful student achievement, the university needs a new facility that is state of the art with flexible, active learning classrooms and laboratories.

Portland State University has been declared one of the "Top 10 Most Innovative Schools" by US News & World Report.

That innovation should include a PSU science center that provides our students the opportunity to receive an education in the sciences that will allow them to receive the academic credentials and leadership skills necessary to tackle the many issues that will effect Oregon in this century.

I urge you to provide the necessary State support so that this new science center can become a reality for our students and this University.

Thank you for your service and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,  
Stephen J. Petruzelli, Member  
PSU Foundation Board of Directors