

From: [Chris Nickerson](#)
To: [JWMCC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Capital Request for SB1
Date: Thursday, February 13, 2020 7:07:48 AM

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

Re: Adding Capital Funding for PSU's Vernier Science Center to HB 5201

o I write to you today strongly encouraging your support of public funding to renovate PSU's outdated undergraduate science building.

o As Oregonians, we must do all we can to promote state of the art science programs and facilities at the university level in order to develop a workforce ready for the challenges of our state's future.

o At a ratio of 62 percent of its student body, PSU proudly serves more low-income students and students of color than any other Oregon university and these students make up more than half of PSU's STEM program. They need and deserve an exceptional STEM education. This is about giving the under served an opportunity to excel in the sciences.

o PSU graduates look locally for employment upon graduation, Nike and Intel being two of the top employers. Investing in a great science program and facility at PSU is also great for our state.

o While this may look like just another capital request it is not. It is also about educating PSU students by creating an energy efficient facility in their backyard that will decrease PSU's carbon footprint, reduce electricity consumption by 22 percent and gas consumption by 62 percent.

Thank you, subcommittee members for your commitment to our state and to providing young people from all backgrounds with the opportunity to thrive.
Warmest regards,
Christine Nickerson,
Portland State University Foundation Board Member