

**From:** [Kendal McDonald](#)  
**To:** [JWMCC Exhibits](#)  
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**Subject:** Adding Capital Funding for PSU's Vernier Science Center to HB 5201  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020 5:14:47 PM

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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**

I am writing today to encourage you to strongly support the use of public funds to renovate PSU's undergraduate science building. As a PSU alumna, I recently toured the building and I was embarrassed by its condition.

The countertops in the labs were wrapped in paper because they contain asbestos. The lab we saw could hold no more than 15 students both because of the small size of the lab and because there was not a direct line of site to the instructor. There are also only two narrow stairwells in the building. And the HVAC equipment in the basement looks like it belongs in a 1950s horror movie.

More than half of PSU's STEM enrollment is made up of first-generation, low-income students from historically underrepresented groups. These students need and deserve a facility and programs that will enable their success. The undergraduate STEM students need state-of-the-art laboratories that exceed what they had in high school. They need a safe environment where they can learn and study. Their success is critical to Oregon.

Thank you for your commitment and service to the STEM undergraduate students of Oregon and for your understanding in the need to train the next generation of science and health professionals.

Kendal McDonald  
Beaverton, Oregon

PSU '02, '12