

**From:** [Don Vollum](#)  
**To:** [JWMCC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** PSU Vernier Science Center-- HB 5201  
**Date:** Thursday, February 13, 2020 11:26:49 AM

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Hello—

I am writing in support of funding for Portland State University's Vernier Science Center project.

I am presently the Board Chair for the PSU Foundation, and an alum of PSU— class of 1994.

I understand that your role as legislators involves the allocation of limited state funds, and that, in turn, requires making choices. I'm sure that every project which has made it to this level is compelling and would be an asset to the state and to our community if it goes forward.

However, I believe that the Vernier Science Center is particularly compelling for several reasons:

- 1) PSU educates the work force in Oregon, and in Portland in particular. A highly skilled work force, especially in science and technology, is the key to bringing and keeping high paying jobs in our state, and in Portland.
- 2) The original building was built in 1966. 54 years is a pretty good run for a science education building, and represents a great return on the state's initial investment back in 1966. A similar new investment will generate a similarly great return going forward.
- 3) PSU does a lot with a little. As our long history with the existing building shows, we don't ask for capital dollars until we really need them, and we make sure that every dollar is put to good use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Don Vollum