

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2021

Ways and Means  
900 State Street NE, Room H-178,  
Salem OR 97301



RE SB 5505

Members of the Committee:

We are writing today to ask you to support the continued growth and prosperity of Central Oregon by investing \$13.8M to complete a new Student Success Center at OSU-Cascades' Bend campus. Cascades students have voted in favor of a new student fee and committed \$5M towards the project with over \$2M already collected.

Enrollment at OSU-Cascades continues to grow rapidly, fueled largely by students who would be unable to earn a four-year degree if it meant leaving their community, as many of our students are working adults. Our university does not yet have many of the features one normally associates with a college campus. For instance, we do not have a library in the traditional sense, nor do we have a student union. This means that many of the hubs around which college life traditionally revolves do not yet exist in Bend, a deficiency that the HECC has identified. In addition to giving students a public space that will be truly theirs, this facility will house vital programs including academic and career counseling, as well as a dedicated space for our veterans' services programs, which currently convenes on a bench under a staircase in our dining hall. The Student Success Center will give students a place to connect with programs and services that will keep them on track to graduate, secure internships and advance their careers.

OSU-Cascades is still a very young campus, and while it has already generated a group of passionate alumni, we would like to close by underscoring our community's support for *our* university. Even though many of us earned degrees elsewhere, we have come to embrace OSU-Cascades as our school because of the outsized, positive impact it has for the region. As an example, input from area businesses and industry helped develop and enhance programs in computer science, energy systems engineering, outdoor products, kinesiology and others.

We all want Central Oregon to continue to grow as a sustainable, prosperous and vibrant community. OSU-Cascades, and the addition of the Student Success Center in particular, are indispensable components of the verdant future we are working together to build, and we ask for your support.

Best Regards,

Jane & Oran Teater  
Now4 OSU-Cascades