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Testimony SB 5528

Members of the Education Subcommittee of Ways & Means.

For your record, I am Subisha Sundaram and I am the President- Elect of Oregon State University's College of Engineering Student Council. I graduated from Westview high school in Portland and I am now a Sophomore studying Radiation Health Physics in the school of Nuclear Science and Engineering. I am also a member of the Honor's College and College of Engineering Student Ambassador.

I am here today to urge your continued support for the Engineering Technology Sustaining Fund (ETSF) and the requested 7.4% increase. The funds provide critical support not only to OSU's College of Engineering but also to my peers at Portland State University and the Oregon Institute of Technology.

The College of Engineering provides a thriving and engaging environment for engineering students of all backgrounds to pursue their dreams and reach their ultimate potential. All of the faculty and staff share a personal commitment to our success, and the student community is very supportive and inclusive.

**There are a variety of resources and opportunities for student support both academically and beyond the classroom.** It is very clear how much the College of Engineering cares about its students, making sure that there we reduce barriers for any student who wants to become an engineer.

As a student ambassador for the College of Engineering, I often get the opportunity to interact with prospective students and families who are amidst the decision process of picking Oregon State University. It is clear that the competition for recruiting high-achieving and underrepresented students is extremely high. ETFS funds provide stability to the college, and allow a student to select from 16 undergraduate engineering programs. ETFS funding supports faculty and, we as students, learn from educators who are also pushing the boundaries of knowledge. This makes OSU a competitive choice for future engineers.

**This year the many student organizations represented by the engineering student council served as "room" hosts during our virtual career fairs. What we learned from these events, engineering graduates remain in high demand.** The legislature's support, with the requested increase, will sustain OSU's efforts to graduate exceptional engineers by providing students with academic resources and tutoring every day, hiring talented faculty from diverse backgrounds, and supporting engineering student organizations which enhance our knowledge and skills outside of the classroom.

This is my first official activity in my role as President-Elect. I appreciate that you took the time to listen to me and I will respond to any questions you might have.

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