

Good afternoon Senators,

My name is Shiloh Castelli, and I am an Oregon resident and a student at Oregon Tech. I am writing to testify to you today that I am in support of SB 854, and I greatly desire increased transparency from our own Board of Trustees. Oregon Tech has extremely misguided leadership among our senior administrators and university President, and a lot of enrolled students and working faculty and staff feel powerless to do anything about this. Appeals to our Board have been disregarded and we've received useless platitudes in response to our concerns about poor spending, opaque financial decisions, and awful treatment of our faculty. President Naganathan commissioned a \$7,000 symbolic necklace for him to wear at graduation ceremonies his first year at Oregon Tech. This year, he received a 92% vote of no confidence from our faculty. One of our Board members is an ex-President of two different colleges and from both he left under questionable circumstances. Several of our Board members have no publicly available contact information. The administration building on the main campus, renovated in 2017, is getting cosmetic work done at over \$500,000 during a pandemic while student classrooms and labs are barely maintained or functional.

We desperately need transparency from our Board so that we know we have members who can hold our university's President and senior administrators accountable. Our current Board has no regard for what is going on at this school. Explicit parts of this bill would help to establish ways our voices can be heard and our concerns acted on.

While I support this bill, I am also writing to encourage this Committee to consider revitalizing the selection process for a university board by putting more of the decisive power into the hands of the people who make a university – the faculty, the staff, and the students. I greatly appreciate the amount of consideration that was made when amending the bill to reflect the need for recommendations from the university community (in Section 1(2)(a)). It would be an even bigger step in the right direction to *require* recommendations from the community, and to incorporate language that allowed time for those recommendations to be made. As a student, I know it can be difficult to be aware of ways I can help influence important decisions that will affect me and my professors, much less have the time I need to take part.

The other big step in the right direction would be to include requiring the finalized evaluation report in Section 2(4) to be made publicly available, as well as it going to the recipients stated in the bill.

Even without my recommendations, I strongly support SB 854.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,  
Shiloh Castelli