

Honorary members of the Oregon Joint Committee On Ways and Means,

My name is Jim Teece, I live in Ashland, Oregon and I have been a proud resident in this state for over 30 years.

My wife and I own several small businesses in Oregon. Project A is a software company, Ashland Home Net, Rogue Broadband and Umpqua Broadband are internet service providers in Jackson and Douglas county where we are today. I also own the Southern Oregon Business Journal and am a partner in 1000Museums.com a small manufacturing company in Ashland that sells licensed reproductions of museum art all over the world.

Many of you could say that as a business person I represent the business community.

I am very involved in the communities I serve and related to my visit today I proudly serve on the Southern Oregon University Foundation board for the last 20+ years. I am currently the vice president and will move into the president position this summer.

My job in my community is very similar to your job in the state.

I ask myself everyday how do I take one dollar and divide it in order to take care of everything I find important to me and my community? From social services to education, from public safety to economic development.

I have learned over the years that if I always focus on economic development then I will create sustainability and an opportunity to give more next year.

If I fund a majority of my dollar even if by 1% to education and economic development then I perpetually fund the future. The students' growth will impact our communities by turning them into stronger communities and more of a strong base means a more of a chance to grow my one dollar into two.

I'm here today to not only ask you to invest in public higher education in Oregon and approve to fund \$1.05 Billion dollars for public Universities for all the reasons you will hear from others today.

I'm asking you to always, always fund education and economic development first. It's how we will fund the problems we all face today. It will grow the tax base in the future and it will grow all the support services over time.

And I'll commit to you that even though you will fund the \$1.05 Billion we are encouraging you to do tonight, it will never be enough and I along with all the people that serve on foundation boards across the state will continue to find ways to fund the gap and help more Oregonians get more education, because we know this is our way forward.

Thank you for your time and for coming to Southern Oregon tonight.