



Oregon State University  
**Cascades**

Oregon State University - Cascades  
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Bend, Oregon 97702

- To:** Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, Joint Committee On Ways and Means, Subcommittee On Capital Construction
- From:** Sherman Bloomer, Chancellor and Dean, Oregon State University-Cascades
- Date:** February 16, 2024
- Re:** Testimony in support of Oregon State University's capital funding request for \$24M for OSU-Cascades Phase III Remediation and Campus Development in HB 5201

My name is Sherman Bloomer, Chancellor and Dean for Oregon State University's Cascade campus in Bend. I appreciate your time considering this testimony.

I am writing to support Oregon State University's request for \$24M for OSU-Cascades Phase III Remediation and Campus Development. The project will complete the next phase of remediation of a demolition landfill and pumice mine at OSU-Cascades in Bend to create 24 acres of new, usable land giving us a total of 81 contiguous acres that will provide space to meet the steady enrollment growth OSU-Cascades is experiencing (including areas like business, physical therapy, and outdoor products).

OSU will secure \$5M in matching funds in addition to the \$24M. The university has already committed \$24M to the current Phase II work (that was matched with \$10M from the state and \$2M from EPA).

The OSU-Cascades campus is being developed on a 128-acre site that includes only 10-acres of originally buildable land, the rest being a decommissioned pumice mine and a former construction landfill. The university committed to this site with the goal of turning currently unusable land in the center of Oregon's fastest growing region into a vibrant university campus that provides space to Central Oregon's entrepreneurs, graduates for a fast-growing economy, and opportunity for Central Oregon students.

I believe the commitment of this \$24M in state-paid bonds is a good long-term investment for the state for three reasons:

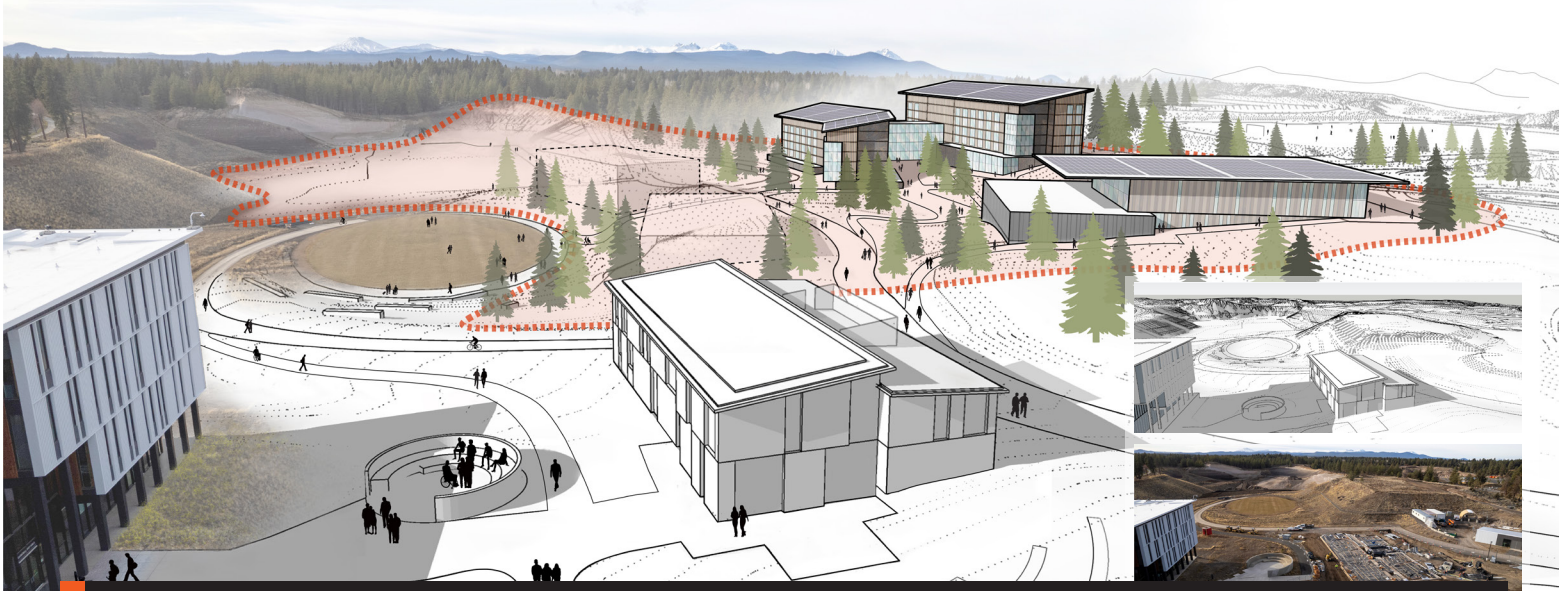
- First, growing the campus at OSU-Cascades is an economic investment in Oregon's fastest growing, most innovative economy. College graduates earn more, spend those earnings in their communities, and contribute more tax revenues to the state. 70% of students who pursue four-year higher education don't go more than two hours from home---Central Oregon needs access to quality higher education to continue to grow.
- Second, Oregon State is committed to being an agent of economic growth for Oregon. An educated workforce is an essential part of the growth of businesses and the innovation from a research university drives future growth. OSU is committed to success in Bend and has already allocated significant resources to remediating the site for the region.

- Finally, completing the next phase of the remediation work makes business sense. It creates an 81-acre continuous campus, saves at least \$1M in immediate costs, maintains dozens of high-wage jobs, and creates a campus that allows more than a decade of growth. It creates space for immediate needs for student housing with 150 apartment-style beds and a student health and recreation center (something every other university campus in Oregon has), to which students have committed over \$15M in matching funds from student approved fees.

I realize there are many needs in front of the legislature in this session. However, I urge you to support this request as a long-term investment in OSU, OSU-Cascades, and all of Central Oregon that will yield benefits to the state in revenue and economic growth for decades.

# DIG NOW. FOR CENTRAL OREGON'S FUTURE.

OSU-Cascades is producing skilled workers in Oregon's fastest growing community. But meeting the region's workforce needs requires ready land.



**THE ASK: \$24 million to expedite land remediation, creating 81 contiguous acres for academic and student housing buildings.**

*“With the accelerated growth of biotechnology companies in the region, we look to OSU-Cascades for the next generation of skilled, workforce professionals. An investment that speeds OSU-Cascades’ development will further drive progress in Central Oregon’s economy, technical industries and communities.”*

- Lisa Hale, CEO, Grace Bio Labs, Bend, Ore.

## Ready land to meet industry workforce needs.

- OSU-Cascades has contributed more than 5,000 graduates to the regional economy.
- The region's key industries, including Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience, Outdoor and High Tech, require bachelor's degrees or higher.
- Ready land positions OSU-Cascades to respond nimbly to the region's economic needs with innovation, academic and research growth.

## Ready land for student housing needed by 2026.

- Year-after-year record first-year enrollment means on-campus student housing is near capacity.
- Developable land is essential to build housing for 150 more resident students by 2026.
- A new residence hall will help mitigate the community affordable housing crisis.

## Ready land for a health and recreation center, available at every Oregon public university.

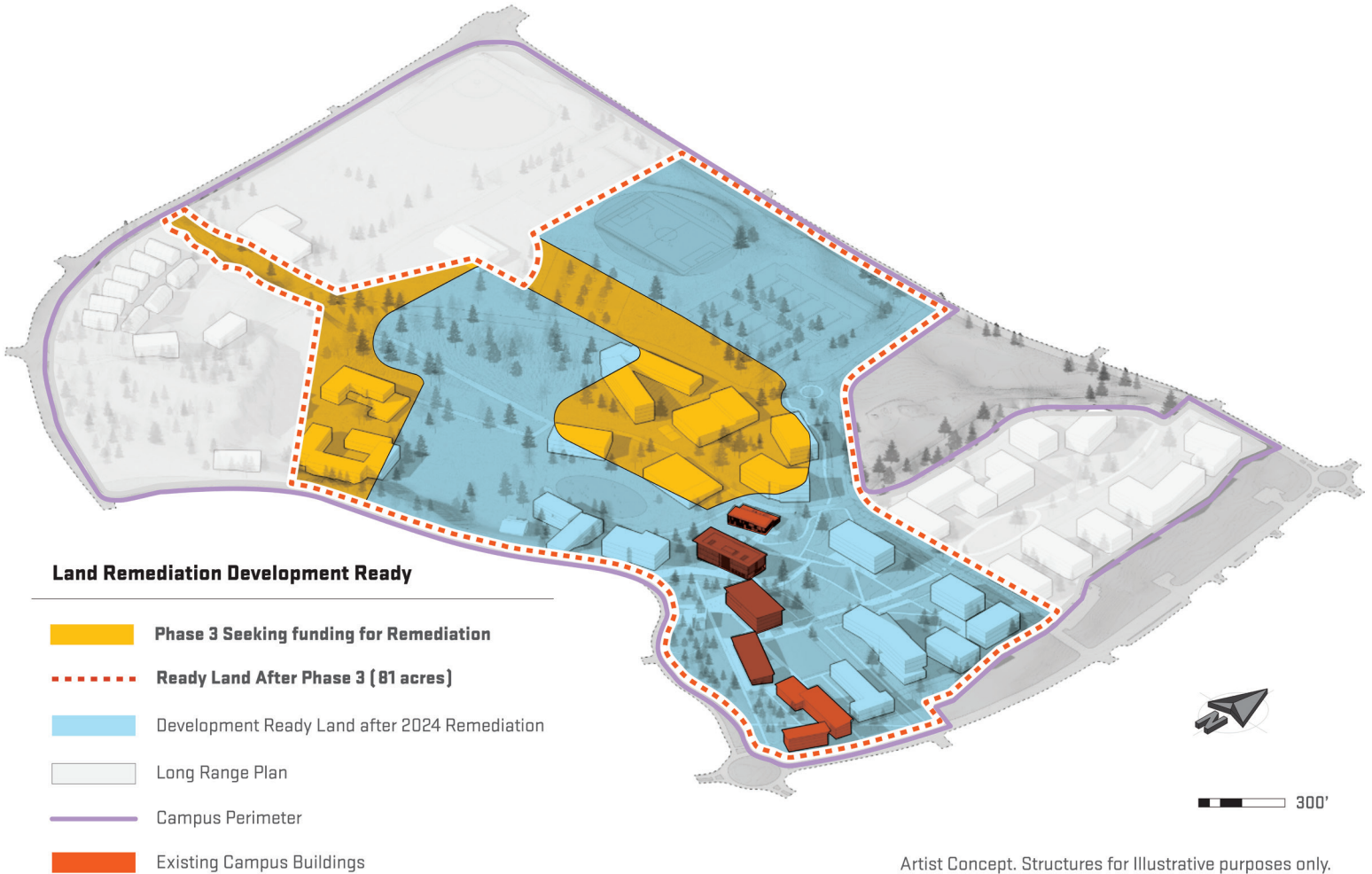
- Students are contributing at least \$15 million towards the future Student Health & Recreation Center.
- Ready land will reduce the timeline to develop a Student Health & Recreation Center by 12-18 months.

## Ready land makes economic and engineering sense.

- OSU-Cascades' graduates support the region and state, earning 65% more over a lifetime, paying more taxes, and are more likely than those with only a high school diploma to be employed.
- Separating remediation from building project budgets reduces costs and timelines.
- Ready land attracts and motivates private and nonprofit partners.

# FULFILLING THE STATE'S PROMISE TO CENTRAL OREGON

OSU-Cascades is transforming the largest tract of unusable land – a former pumice mine and demolition landfill – in the heart of Bend into a university campus to serve the region's higher education needs.



## OSU-Cascades is bringing OSU's land grant mission to:

- Deliver a university education in Central Oregon, where rural communities significantly lag behind the rest of the state.
- Produce career-ready and skilled graduates for local and state industry workforces.
- Propel research and innovations that address energy, health and social issues, and technology advances for the region and state.

## OSU has demonstrated a commitment to moving this work forward:

Source	Phase II (underway)	Phase III (proposed)
OSU paid-debt	\$24M	\$3M
State funding	\$10M	<b>\$24M *</b>
EPA Grant and Other Funds	\$2M	\$2M

\* 2024 Legislative Request

