

TO: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, Joint Committee On Ways and Means, Subcommittee On Capital Construction

FROM: James Nicol, Founder, SnoPlanks, LLC

DATE: February 16, 2024

RE: Testimony in support of Oregon State University's capital funding request for \$24M to support Phase 3 Remediation and Campus Development

Greetings,

My name is James Nicol and I am the Founder of SnoPlanks, a snowboard manufacturing company that is based in Bend, OR and was recently donated to OSU-Cascades.

I am writing to support Oregon State University's capital funding request for \$24M to complete the next phase of remediation of a demolition landfill and pumice mine at OSU-Cascades in Bend to create 24 more acres of usable land that will provide space to grow OSU-Cascades to over 3,000 students.

As a 14-year resident of Bend, Oregon who has grown two business and raised a family in Central Oregon, I can confidently state that an economic investment in OSU-Cascades is an investment in Oregon's future. I have seen first-hand the incredible impact that the OSU-Cascades has had on the region from a community and economic standpoint as students attending the university have brought an influx of energy and support to our local economy. Students graduating from OSU-Cascades will not only directly impact the Oregon economy as they enter the workforce, but the innovative programs and dynamic community that OSU-Cascades offers will help train leaders of industry that bring great value to our state.

OSU-Cascades is clearly committed to success in Bend and has already allocated significant resources to remediating the site for the region while integrating with the community seamlessly. This is no easy task, yet the leaders of this dynamic educational institution have worked tirelessly to build a culture surrounding this young university in a very short period. Completing the next phase of growth for OSU-Cascades makes incredible business sense for this community as it maintains dozens of high-wage jobs and creates a campus that allows more than a decade of growth for over 3,000 students. Furthermore, in a city that has one of the highest rent housing markets in Oregon, it creates space for student housing with 150 apartments and a student health and recreation center which are critically needed at this juncture to allow this school to truly thrive.

As a community member who has been directly involved in the economic growth of this city and seen first-hand how much good the university brings to this region, I truly believe that this funding could not be aligned with a more positive and impactful project. Thank you very much for your consideration,

Sincerely,

James Nicol