



January 28, 2025

To Oregon State Legislature
From Former SCYP Graduate Student
SUBJECT **WRITTEN SUPPORT FOR HB3109-FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
SCYP PROGRAM**

My SCYP project provided a transformative educational experience. As a dual major in landscape architecture and community and regional planning, this urban design project brought together everything I have learned over the past three years. Led by architect, urban designer, and Eugene Mayor Kaarin Knudson, students learned how to harness the power of design to solve some of our communities most pressing challenges, including combating climate change and promoting multi-modal forms of transportation. Students leveraged their skills as planners to understand a community's needs, values, and desires to create a sense of place that integrates affordable housing, mixed-use developments, and ample green space to create a vibrant, accessible, and self-sustaining community. In just 10 weeks, our project teams provided the City of Bend with design proposals that can serve as a model for equitable urban redevelopment not just in Central Oregon, but across the region and beyond.

Service learning projects like these are invaluable to students and the communities they serve. In addition to giving students practical skills and experience, the outputs of these projects have tangible impacts, leading to more sustainable, equitable, and inclusive communities for all. I fully support appropriating moneys to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to the Sustainable City Year Program at the University of Oregon to ensure the continuation of this impactful program.