



February 25, 2025

Oregon House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Fragala, Vice Chair Harbick, and Members of the Oregon House Committee on Higher Education and Workforce:

We write on behalf of the Eastern Oregon University Foundation to express our strong opposition to House Bill 3213 regarding records of private non-profit foundations. As supporters, donors, and alumni of Oregon's public universities, we find this legislation excessive, invasive, costly, and will negatively impact private support for our public universities.

As a private, nonprofit organization founded for the support of Eastern Oregon University, the EOU Foundation has focused its efforts throughout its 61-year history on helping students achieve a college education. Our efforts and work as volunteer board members and trustees are intended to carefully manage our resources to aid our underfunded regional university. There is no reason to single out public university foundations; we abide by state and federal laws and all applicable reporting requirements, including annual reports to the State of Oregon, and follow rigorous practices for nonprofit management.

We are a small foundation with limited resources. The reporting outlined in HB 3213 disproportionately impacts our Foundation – and those of the Technical and Regional Universities – requiring us to reduce student and programmatic financial support to pay for the creation of unnecessary reports and bureaucracy. Further, the exposure of records erodes trust between donors, the state, and foundations; it discourages state gift matching; it will negatively impact donor intent; and it conflicts with the 2023 Oregon Consumer Privacy Act requiring us to protect donor privacy.

We encourage you not to support HB 3213 and allow university foundations to continue their essential work in helping to fund student dreams. Your leadership and commitment help to ensure that our public universities remain places of opportunity, inclusion, and achievement.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your dedication to higher education and look forward to seeing continued support for students and programs that change lives.

Sincerely,

James Gorham '95
Chair, Board of Directors

Brent Gunderson '01
Vice Chair, Board of Directors