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March 31, 2025

Representative Daniel Nguyen, Chair  
House Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade Committee  
900 Court Street NE, HR E  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Members of the Committee,

As Oregon's urban research university and the public university named for the state's largest city, Portland State and Portland rise and fall together. This requires that PSU thoughtfully engage with our community partners as we serve our city. This engagement has many important purposes. Primary among them is to work with the Portland community to address pressing social and economic opportunities and challenges.

The proposed amendment to House Bill 2291 directs funding to the PSU Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies (IMS) to conduct a collaborative stakeholder process to study and identify long-term solutions for festival programming and operations at the Tom McCall Waterfront Park and to complete the work by September 1, 2026.

Founded in 1991, IMS serves as a "front door" to the Portland community. The purpose of IMS is established in ORS 352.703 to "build partnerships between Portland State University's urban studies programs and the surrounding communities of metropolitan Portland and to sponsor public service research." The Institute accomplishes its mission through:

- Engagement: IMS helps community and regional partners connect with PSU faculty and students around issues related to urban and regional development in the Portland metropolitan region;
- Research: IMS supports engaged research that leverages PSU's faculty expertise and resources around important issues facing the Portland metropolitan region; and
- Convening: IMS convenes partners and stakeholders to promote dialogue around important policy and planning issues facing the Portland metropolitan region.

PSU's Institute for Portland Metropolitan Studies is well positioned to deliver on the objectives of this bill, in collaboration with the City of Portland, Portland Metro Chamber, and other partners in this endeavor. We urge your support of the House Bill 2291 with the amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Noll".

Eric Noll  
Director of Regional Government Relations and Policy  
Portland State University