



Oregon Institute of Technology

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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April 10, 2025

TO: Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology

FROM: Nagi G. Naganathan, Ph.D., ASME Fellow, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nagi G. Naganathan".

Subject: Support for HB 3592

Co-Chairs Woods and Nathanson, Members of the Committee,

Oregon Tech is one of Oregon's seven public universities that offers statewide educational opportunities through a hands-on, project-based learning environment emphasizing innovation, scholarship and applied research while meeting current and emerging needs of Oregonians.

I am writing today to offer Oregon Tech's support to HB 3592.

In an era of rapid technological advancement, the growing importance and impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) cannot be overstated. HB 3592 creates the Commission on AI as a central resource to monitor the use of Oregon's artificial intelligence technologies and systems and report on long-term policy implications. A public commission of this nature will benefit policymakers across the state and the public, including universities and other higher education institutions, as we train and educate the workforce of tomorrow.

From manufacturing to healthcare to transportation and agriculture, AI is revolutionizing industries. As other states and countries invest heavily in AI research, education, and workforce development, Oregon risks falling behind in this essential field. Oregon Tech welcomes the opportunity for a robust discussion on AI. Oregon Tech has also been actively engaged in this topic, including through the ongoing development of a baccalaureate degree in Artificial Intelligence.

By recognizing research and workforce development in HB 3592 as an important part of the conversation, Oregon can ensure that we have not only the talent needed for our existing industries but also the career-ready, innovative workforce to attract and support emerging industries in AI and machine learning, data science, robotics, and other tech-driven fields.

This is not a moment for hesitation; but an opportunity for Oregon to be on the forefront.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and for your leadership.

I respectfully urge the Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology membership to support HB 3592. ■