

Submitter: Samantha Pahlow

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB 5505

Dear Co-Chair Kate Lieber, Co-Chair Tawna Sanchez, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Samantha Pahlow, and I am a shareholder and Executive Vice President at Ferguson Wellman Capital Management. In addition to my professional role, I have lived and worked in the Portland-metro area my entire life. I am a proud alumna of Portland State University and serve on various boards where I am deeply committed to community and cultural development.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Portland State University's Portland Performing Arts & Culture Complex. As an alumna of PSU, I have experienced firsthand the university's dedication to fostering education, culture, and community engagement. The proposed complex embodies these values, promising to be a transformative project for both the university and the state of Oregon.

I urge you to approve PSU's Capital Construction request for \$85 million in Article-G Bonds. With this funding, the Performing Arts & Culture Complex will be able to generate sustained economic activity, supporting local businesses and enhancing Portland's status as a regional leader in culture and innovation.

The complex will serve as a crucial cultural hub, attracting a wide array of performances, events, and educational opportunities. This will not only enhance Oregon's cultural landscape but also stimulate economic growth. The influx of visitors and activity will support local businesses, restaurants, and hotels, significantly contributing to the revitalization of downtown Portland and benefiting the entire state's economy.

In my experience on various boards, I have seen the profound impact that strategic investments in cultural infrastructure can have on a community. The Performing Arts & Culture Complex is a prime example of such an investment. It will generate job opportunities during construction and create sustained economic activity through its operations, ensuring long-term benefits for Oregon's economic health.

Moreover, the complex will provide an essential space for community engagement and artistic expression. The arts have a unique ability to bring people together, fostering a sense of shared experience and mutual understanding. By offering a venue for performances, workshops, and community events, the complex will help build a more connected and resilient community.

As an experienced investment and finance professional, I understand the importance of supporting projects that drive cultural and economic growth. The Portland Performing Arts & Culture Complex represents a significant investment in Oregon's future, enhancing the quality of life for residents and positioning our state as a cultural and economic leader in the region.

In conclusion, I urge you to support the funding and development of Portland State University's proposed Portland Performing Arts & Culture Complex. This project promises cultural enrichment, economic revitalization, and enhanced community well-being across Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to initiatives that benefit our state.

Sincerely,

Samantha Pahlow, CTFA, AWMA®

Executive Vice President & Wealth Management Chair, Ferguson Wellman Capital
Management

Proud PSU Alumna