

Submitter: Jon Owens

On Behalf Of: Portland State

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 Jon Owens, and prior to retiring in 2020, I was President of the ESCO Division of Weir. During my 33-year career at ESCO, including international experience in business development, operations, and sales, I had the privilege of serving in various capacities that contribute to the growth and development of our community. Currently, I serve as an executive board member for the Portland State University (PSU) Foundation and the Oregon Business Academy, and I previously served as an executive board member for Oregon Business and Industry, and on PSU's board for the School of Business.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Portland State University's proposed Portland Performing Arts & Culture Complex and its \$85 million Article G bond request. As a member of the PSU Foundation Board, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that Portland State University has on our city. The proposed Portland Performing Arts & Culture Complex is a transformative project that will significantly contribute to the revitalization of downtown Portland. This state-of-the-art facility will not only enhance the cultural landscape of our city but also stimulate economic growth and create a vibrant, dynamic south downtown.

The Portland Performing Arts & Culture Complex will serve as a crucial cultural hub, attracting diverse performances and events that draw visitors from across the region. This influx of activity will support local businesses, restaurants, and hotels, creating a thriving downtown area that benefits all Portland residents. The economic impact of this project cannot be overstated, as it will generate job opportunities during construction and ongoing operations, contributing to the financial health of our city.

As someone with extensive experience in business development, I understand the importance of strategic investments in projects that drive cultural and economic growth. The Portland Performing Arts & Culture Complex is one such investment, promising to enhance the quality of life for Portland residents while positioning our city as a cultural and economic leader in the region.

As a Portland native and the sixth generation of my family to call Oregon home, I want to see our city and state have a prosperous future. I have very fond memories of the Keller Auditorium over the years attending concerts, Broadway shows, and even my high school graduation. And while that facility has served the city well for the past 100 years, the new facility being proposed by Portland State University gives us the opportunity to create a complex that will serve the city for the next 100 years.

I strongly urge you to support PSU's Capital Construction request for \$85 million in Article-G Bonds. This funding is essential to bringing this transformative project to fruition, ensuring that Portland's arts and culture scene thrives for generations to come.

Thank you for serving our great state.

Sincerely,  
Jon Owens