

Submitter: Linda McKim-Bell

On Behalf Of: Portland State University

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB 5505

Dear Co-Chair Fred Girod, Co-Chair Rob Nosse and Members of the Subcommittee on
Capital Construction,

My name is Stacy Schoo, and I am a former staff member of the Portland State University. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed PSU Performing Arts and Culture Center (PACC) and to urge the state to approve an \$85 million capital construction Article-G bond request to bring this vision to life.

As someone who knows downtown Portland well, I recognize the transformative potential of this project. Downtown Portland is in need of critical investments to help it recover and thrive again. The Portland City Council's recent resolution to construct a major new performing arts venue before renovating the outdated and seismically vulnerable Keller Auditorium is a visionary step. Incorporating the new venue into a multi-use Performing Arts + Culture Center (PACC) on the PSU campus will create a thriving education and entertainment district, just blocks away from the renovated Keller. This is a 100-year vision to build a nationally distinct destination that drives economic development, provides career pathways in the performing arts, and restores investor confidence in a revitalized downtown Portland.

The requested \$85 million capital construction bond will be a critical investment in both the future of Portland and the state of Oregon. This funding will help make the PACC a reality, supporting the development of a world-class cultural and educational space in the heart of Portland.

Why should Oregon invest?

- To restore downtown Portland. Successful cities of the future require destination-worthy downtowns that offer entertainment and educational amenities. This project will be a critical investment that helps Portland bounce back, attracting visitors, residents, and businesses.

- To support students. The PACC will provide game-changing opportunities for PSU performing arts students and will also serve the needs of K-12 students statewide, enhancing their exposure to the arts.
- To spark Oregon's arts ecosystem. With PSU owning the community theater and spaces, diverse artists and organizations will have the opportunity to showcase their work and attract broader audiences.
- To support workers. The PACC venue is expected to create approximately 336 direct and indirect jobs, while construction of the PACC will create more than 2,000 new construction jobs. It will also preserve the hundreds of union-represented jobs that currently support productions at the Keller Auditorium.
- To catalyze investment and development. The project is already attracting new donors and investors. With over 7 acres of developable space adjacent to the 4.25-acre PACC site, it represents the only opportunity of this scale downtown.

The \$85 million capital construction article-g bond request is an essential step in securing the future of this transformative project. Investing in the PSU Performing Arts and Culture Center is not just an investment in the arts but an investment in Portland's economic recovery, community enrichment, and access to world-class cultural experiences for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project and the requested funding.

Sincerely,

Stacy Schoo