

Submitter: Vera Sell

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,

As someone who has walked the halls of Portland State University as a student, now teaches in its classrooms, and actively supports its mission as a member of the PSU Foundation Board, I care deeply about the role PSU plays in our city—and in Oregon.

My name is Vera Sell, and I live in Portland's Forest Heights neighborhood. I'm writing in strong support of Portland State University's proposal for a new performing arts complex.

In addition to my connection to PSU as an alum, faculty member, and trustee, I'm also a small business owner with a growing presence in the city. I've long believed in the power of the arts to elevate communities, and I have a personal history of supporting local arts organizations such as White Bird and the Oregon Ballet Theatre. I regularly attend performances at Portland's major venues as well as smaller stages, including intimate flamenco performances. This new facility would help foster that same cultural vibrancy for future generations.

I support this proposal because it will position Portland as a premier hub for the performing arts—enriching the cultural fabric of our community, fueling economic growth, and providing invaluable educational opportunities to students across the state. The new performing arts complex will attract world-class talent, inspire creativity, and serve as a beacon of artistic expression.

Importantly, this investment benefits more than just Portland. It expands access to the arts statewide—through outreach, digital access, and partnerships that reach underserved communities and inspire students throughout Oregon.

According to the Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon's nonprofit arts and culture sector contributed over **\$829 million** to the state's economy in fiscal year 2022. This investment not only enriches our cultural landscape but also delivers substantial educational and economic returns.

I respectfully urge you to support PSU's \$85 million Capital Construction Article-G Bond Request, which is essential to bringing this transformative vision to life and ensuring its benefits reach all corners of Oregon.

I believe in the power of the arts to bring people together, to educate, to inspire, and to revitalize communities. This project reflects those values—and deserves our full support.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Vera Sell